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THE TIMES

50P

No. 66,299 SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5 1998 http://www.the-times.co.uk

Crashed airliner had warning over possible faulty wiring

BY ADAM SAGE, RICHARD CLEROUX AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE Swissair airliner in which 229 people died had been the subject of faulty wiring fears, it emerged yesterday.

The aircraft's manufacturer alerted airlines last year to potential problems with the cockpit wiring on MD11 aircraft such as the jet that crashed into the Atlantic off Nova Scotia on Thursday.

The faulty wiring in a panel at the rear of the cockpit was detected by manufacturer McDonnell Douglas after other airlines had reported that the wires rubbed together as MD-11s shook during takeoff and landings.

Swissair insisted yesterday that it had modified the wiring on its fleet of 16 MD11s but investigators are expected to look closely at the wreckage of the cockpit, which the pilots reported as being filled with dense smoke minutes before the crash.

The scale of the investigators' task became clear last night as searchers revealed that the aircraft had broken into millions of pieces when it plunged into the sea seven miles off the Nova Scotia coast. With hope all but gone of finding anyone alive, searchers began concentrating on finding the aircraft's black box, flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder.

A Canadian Navy submarine, the *HMCS Okanagan*, searched the seabed 120ft below the surface, using acoustical imaging equipment. Rescuers were still searching for survivors but local experts said that death from hypothermia was likely within 12 hours. The aircraft, which crashed one hour and twenty minutes into its flight from New York to Geneva, hit the water with immense force. John O'Leary, a spokesman for the search team, said: "The largest piece of the aircraft that we have found is about 3ft x 3ft, and we can't tell what part of the aircraft it is."

The cockpit voice recorder and the flight data recorder will provide the crucial information about the last 16 minutes of the flight after smoke was reported by the pilots to be entering the cockpit. The pilots are believed to have planned an emergency landing at Boston but were advised to head to a nearer airport at Halifax, Nova Scotia. The plane crashed just seven minutes short of its destination.

As the weather worsened yesterday, with gusting winds preventing military helicopters from joining the search, the first of several hundred friends and relatives of the victims began arriving here to view the site of the crash.

Special flights have been organised by Swissair from Zurich, Geneva and New York. Nearly 100 relatives took off from Geneva and were given psychological counselling before boarding the aircraft.

The death toll included 136

Continued on page 2, col 1

Hague to fight for first past the post

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Conservative Party is preparing to launch a national campaign to save the present voting system amid fears that change could threaten its chances of ever returning to power.

William Hague will put the issue at the top of his party's priorities at a two-day Shadow Cabinet summit next week and also aims to mobilise business, the press and public behind the fight to keep the first-past-the-post system.

The move comes after growing signs that Tony Blair is about to commit Labour to a shift that would transform British politics, entrenching a Labour-Liberal Democrat coalition for years, if endorsed in a referendum next year.

But Mr Hague believes he can turn the poll to his advantage. He told *The Times*: "Labour's plans are a great opportunity for us. This is a referendum we can win. The support for a system of elections which has served this country well runs deep, way beyond the ranks of our party. Our job must be to mobilise that support and deliver a defeat which will shake this Government to its core."

A commission on voting systems, chaired by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, is due to report next month and informed sources suggest that it is poised to recommend a new system containing an element of proportional representation, while falling well short of the Liberal Democrat demand for a fully-fledged PR system.

Some 500 MPs would be elected under an alternative vote (AV) system in which candidates are ranked in order with the lower preferences redistributed until someone gets 50 per cent of the vote. That could be combined with a "top-up" PR system under which 150 MPs would be elected from lists according to their parties' overall share of the vote.

Mr Blair has yet to decide whether to back the top-up system and will be opposed by Cabinet heavyweights such as Jack Straw, John Prescott, Ann Taylor and possibly Gordon Brown if he does.

But any change is deeply feared by the Conservatives after a welter of surveys suggesting they would be disadvantaged by them. The AV system would have given Mr Blair an even bigger majority at the last election — 213 instead of 179.

Mr Hague, aware of the split in Labour's ranks and suspecting public opposition to any tampering with the present system, is to go on the attack. One senior Tory aide said: "It is an issue on which Labour has considerable internal difficulties. Asking the voters to change to an electoral system that will make Blair even more secure at the next election is a tricky escapade."

Michael Ancram, who takes over from Lord Parkinson as party chairman next month, will lead the detailed Shadow Cabinet debate. He has accused Mr Blair of plotting to perpetuate Labour's hold on power and of "rigging" the Jenkins commission.

PR experiment, page 8



MARC ASPLAND

Michael Owen, the 18-year-old striker, in Stockholm on the eve of England's opening European championship qualifying tie against Sweden today. Match preview, page 29

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Isas plea

The Government is coming under pressure to delay the launch of Individual Savings Accounts, which will replace Tessas and Peps as a means of tax-free investment in April, because the financial services industry says it has not been given enough time or information to prepare.....Page 23

Duma delays

The Russian parliament backed away from confrontation with President Yeltsin by postponing until Monday a vote on whether to endorse Viktor Chernomyrdin as Prime Minister. He won support of the upper house with a call for an "economic dictatorship".....Page 16

Girls on top

The annual GCSE league table offers yet more evidence of the relentless rise of girls at the expense of boys. They come top of every set of tests and examinations from the age of seven to 16 and are gaining ground at A level.....Page 7

Clinton says he is sorry but Democrat fury rises

BY BRONWEN MADDOX AND MARTIN FLETCHER

PRESIDENT CLINTON said yesterday for the first time that he was "sorry" for his sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky, waiting until Dublin to utter the words that critics and defenders have clamoured for weeks to hear.

"I am very sorry," the President replied in Dublin, when challenged to respond to a searing attack by Joe Lieberman, a senior Democrat, the first from either party to denounce Mr Clinton on the Senate floor.

Mr Lieberman's friendship with the President goes back three decades. As a Yale law student, Mr Clinton worked on the Lieberman campaigns in Connecticut. Mr Lieberman, who ranked in the past among Mr Clinton's closest allies, called for the President to be punished for his "immoral" behaviour.

"Basically I agree with what he said," Mr Clinton said. "I have already said that I made a bad mistake. It was indefensible and I am sorry about it. I can't disagree with anyone else who wants to be critical of what I have already acknowledged was indefensible."

Mr Clinton was clearly shaken by the timing and bitterness of Mr Lieberman's condemnation. The President looked tired, grim and subdued as he answered questions about the sex and perjury scandal, which is showing no signs of fading under the pressure of the world financial crisis, as the White House had hoped. Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, who was standing at the side of the President, looked embarrassed at the line of questioning.

On the week-long trip to Russia and Ireland, relations between him and his wife Hillary have been conspicuously frosty. There has been practically no physical contact between them; the frequent hand-holding and the rapt expression with which Mrs Clinton used to listen to her husband's speeches are gone.

Mr Clinton's trip to Ireland and the emotional speeches in front of cheering crowds have been eclipsed in America by the Mr Lieberman's attack. The attack was strengthened by the immediate support on the Senate floor from the more liberal Daniel Moynihan of New York and from Bob Kerrey of Nebraska.

The Democratic onslaught represents a humiliating rebuff to the White House, which had lobbied hard with senators to desist at least until Sunday, when Mr Clinton will be back home.

Critics in Washington last night dismissed Mr Clinton's off-the-cuff "I'm sorry" as "too little, too late".

Golfing dream, page 4
Simon Jenkins, page 19
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Love-lorn Beckham spent £1,600 calling Posh Spice

BY ADRIAN LEE AND ANNIE FLURY

SHARING a room with David Beckham can prove expensive, his England colleague Gary Neville discovered after returning from World Cup duty in Georgia.

Arriving home, an unwitting Neville was puzzled to find £800 deducted from his wages. When he explained to the Football Association that he hadn't made a single call, he was informed that it was usual to divide room mates' bills in two.

Beckham's devotion to his fiancée Victoria Adams — Posh Spice — led to a telephone bill of £1,600 during the team's week-long stay in the former Soviet state. Neville asked for a single room in future. "Becks is the worst one for using the phone," said Neville, who will be best man at his clubmate's wedding next year. "God knows where he was ringing that week. To be fair he's away from his girlfriend and family a lot and it's the only way he can talk to them."

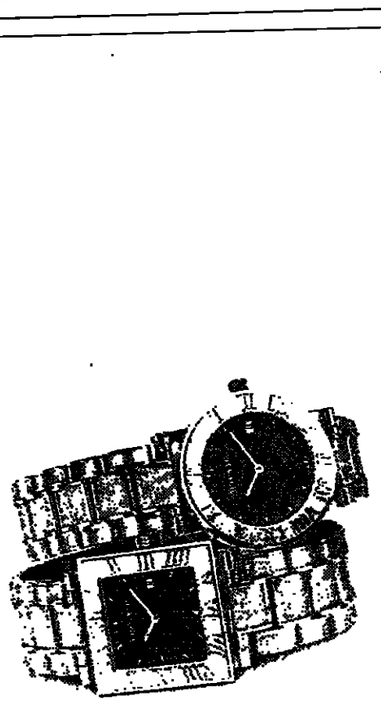
On previous away trips, Neville reveals in a book serialised in *The Times* from today, Beckham kept him awake by spending hours on the telephone.

The Manchester United defender, who played for England during France 98, said their friendship had not suffered. "Becks and I laughed about it, but since then my England stays have been a lot cheaper and I've had my full nine hours," he says in *For Club and Country: the Hunt for European and World Cup Glory*, which he has written with his brother, Phil.

The typical call cost from a hotel in Tbilisi, Georgia, where England won 2-0 in November 1996, is £7.20 a minute. To run up a bill of £1,600 the footballer must have telephoned for a total of three hours 45 minutes. Had he used a call box, the cost would have been just £1.20 a minute, allowing him to speak for 22 hours for the same money, said a spokesman at the Georgian embassy in London yesterday.

Traumatic day, page 31





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London Luton	Belfast	£34	London Luton	Athens	£59.50
London Luton	Nice	£41.70	Liverpool	Amsterdam	£41.70
Liverpool	Amsterdam	£41.70	Liverpool	Nice	£42.20



Blair urged to act on pound as 600 jobs go

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TONY BLAIR faced demands for action to bring down the value of the pound last night after the closure of an electronics plant with 600 job losses in his northeast constituency.

The Prime Minister immediately said he would meet the management and workforce of the £340 million Fujitsu plant at Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham. Peter Mandelson, industry secretary, brought forward the announcement of an extra £100 million of funding to help the area's regeneration.

Ministers emphasised that the decision had nothing to do with the state of the British economy and everything to do with the state of the world semi-conductor market, with its drastic drop in prices.

Mr Mandelson said the closure was a blow for the region, but "Fujitsu has made clear their decision was entirely due to the current severe downturn in the world market for D-RAM semiconductors". He said the northeast's attractiveness to inward investors "remains as strong as ever".

However, Labour and Opposition MPs and the unions urged changes in the remit under which the Bank of England fixes interest rates, allowing it to take into account the impact on employment.

The plant, which was opened seven years ago by the Queen and which recently closed for a refit to try to diversify its production, is the latest factory to suffer from the collapse in the Far East. Six weeks ago, the Siemens microchip plant in Tyneside announced it was to close, with 1,100 jobs lost.

Mr Blair's parliamentary neighbour Derek Foster, MP for Bishop Auckland, said the Fujitsu closure would rob the Durham economy of £12 million a year in wages. He accepted the closure was caused by the collapse of the semi-conductor market but said Gordon Brown should change the terms of reference for the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee.

John Monks, general secretary of the TUC, said that membership of the monetary committee should to be broadened to include more people "from the real world". He added: "Trying to cure an inflationary cold in Mayfair can cause a nightmare in Sunderland."

Ken Jackson, general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said: "The Bank of England must cut interest rates next week, otherwise Fujitsu will merely be the beginning of the flood of jobs out of Britain."

John Redwood, the Shadow Trade Secretary, said: "I just hope this dreadful news for the North East wakes up Mr Blair and Mr Mandelson to the realities of trying to do business in modern Britain."

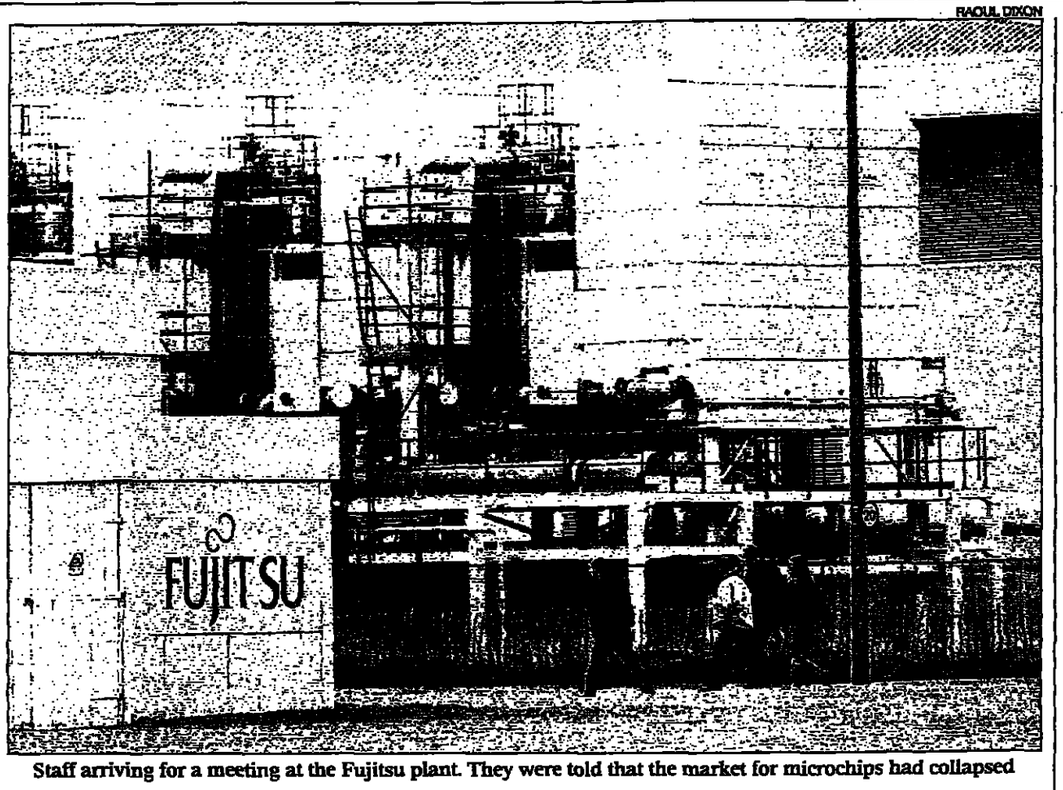
Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, said the news showed that the weaknesses of Labour's economic policy were "coming home to roost". He added: "Gordon Brown should seize upon the current market chaos as an opportunity to rebalance the economy with a strategy designed to bring down interest rates."

Mr Blair is expected to meet workers and management in the next few days. He learnt two days ago that the plant was likely to close. He said the Government was working "very closely" with Fujitsu to find a buyer for the site and help workers find jobs. Fujitsu and other semi-conductor producers had had to reduce capacity around the world, he said.

Business, page 23

WELSH FEARS

Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary was seeking urgent guarantees last night for the future security of a £1.2 billion computer chip plant being built in South Wales after a merger between the Korean electronics giants LG and Hyundai. Fears were further heightened because plans for a similar plant at Dunfermline were recently shelved.



RAOUL DIXON

Staff arriving for a meeting at the Fujitsu plant. They were told that the market for microchips had collapsed

'They told us our jobs were safe'

By Russell Jenkins

THE stream of day-shift workers leaving Fujitsu's gleaming white plant yesterday had all heard about the prospect of a personal intervention by the Prime Minister. Few hopes were raised.

They had just come from a meeting with Takamitsu Tsuchimoto, the Japanese company's executive vice-president, who had explained that they were to lose their jobs because of global economic forces.

With staff facing an uncertain future, one man said that 14 of the residents of a new estate on the edge of Newton Aycliffe worked at the plant. "There will be an awful lot of For Sale signs going up around here," he said.

One woman, who works with her husband at the plant, said: "We are all just numb. This is totally out of the blue. They told us our jobs were safe."

Peter Middleton, 49, from Darlington, is a section head in the personnel department and his 23-year-old son is a lab technician. He said: "It is sad and devastating news for everybody. We had just hoped that the market would recover and that perhaps there would be light at the end of the tunnel."

Fez Debona, 34, moved from Maidstone, Kent, to join the workforce seven years ago as a controller. He is contemplating a return south. "I was made redundant from the same industry when I came here. But it is still a shock. Like half the people in the plant, I have a family to support."

Nobody believed that lobbying from Mr Blair, the constituency MP, could fly in the face of a collapse in the market for their microchip products. Their value has fallen from $45 last year to $1.50.

Mr Tsuchimoto told the workforce yesterday that the factory — opened by the Queen in 1991 — was being shut immediately. The plant would be mothballed until February 1999 while a buyer was sought.

It is an enormous blow to the North East, coming just a month after the German microchip-maker Siemens announced that its factory on Tyneside would close. Unions said that the new closure was potentially devastating to a region with high unemployment.

The redundancies come just three days after Fujitsu staff returned to work after an enforced ten-day layoff. The shutdown was to allow management to bring in new production equipment that may now never be used.

Painkiller may help treat lung cancer patients

By Ian Murray
Medical Correspondent

A PAINKILLER sold over the counter at chemists is a key ingredient of a new drug cocktail that could give hope to lung cancer patients.

Researchers are now prescribing ibuprofen, one of the most effective anti-inflammatory drugs on the market, to help to increase the effectiveness of the steroid megestrol acetate. The steroid is used on patients with breast cancer to help them maintain or gain weight so that they are strong enough to survive treatment. In lung cancer patients, however, inflammation prevents the steroid from having that effect.

Trials using the two drugs in tandem have shown good results in patients with gastrointestinal cancer, so the Cancer Research Campaign has decided to spend £85,000 on a study of 260 patients with the lung disease to see if the cocktail will work for them.

The trial will involve patients from the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh, divided into three groups. One will take the steroid with the painkiller, one the painkiller alone and one a placebo.

The researchers, led by Donald McMillan of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, will compare the relative value of each combination after 12 weeks of treatment. A series of trials, each involving 35 patients, will be carried out over three years.

"The inflammation caused by the tumour is not resolved and the tumour can be thought of as a wound which does not heal," Dr McMillan said. "The body keeps reacting, in some patients with an intensity comparable to having a gall-bladder taken out every week. Often it is not the tumour itself that kills the patient but related health problems."

Ibuprofen is a synthetic drug which acts by blocking production of the acids that cause inflammation.

American Neurologists are also carrying out trials to see if taking the drug regularly can reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease.

Britain's rich and poor drifting farther apart

By Dominic Kennedy and Nicholas Wood

A TALE of two economies is emerging in Britain, where the rich are spending increasing amounts on champagne, servants and luxury cars while the poor struggle to afford life's essentials.

Sales of Porsches and Ferraris have soared since Tony Blair came to power, according to figures released yesterday by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

Yet ordinary people face economic gloom as repossessions of homes are rising, factories shed 500 workers at a time, and the latest assessment by the AEU engineering union is that 200,000 manufacturing jobs are at risk. Unemployment has been falling slowly in recent months but there are now worrying signs that the job market is about to turn.

Job losses in the spring of this year totalled 204,000 in Britain, substantially up on the 170,000 redundancies declared in the autumn of the previous year. Manufacturing and banking were two of the areas hardest hit.

A survey by *The Times* Business News last month disclosed that nearly 13,000 jobs had been lost across the country.

The job shakeout is hitting big exporters such as ICI, and British Steel, which is cutting more than 12,000 of its workforce because of the strong pound. House repossessions, the symbol of the last recession, are also rising. The latest figures show that 17,310 households handed back the keys to their homes in the first half of this year. This was the first rise since 1995.

The proportion of people living below the poverty line peaked at over 20 per cent during the last recession, up from the average of about 10 per cent in the 1960s and 1970s, but decadence is alive and well. Sales of Porsches for the first eight months of 1998 were up to 2,525, almost treble the 1995 total for the same period. Ferrari sales have grown to 344 this year, nearly trebling since 1994.

Champagne deliveries to the United Kingdom have risen 14 per cent between January and May, according to the Comité des Vins de Champagne, with the increase sharpest in the best vintages, which rose by 20 per cent.

As society becomes polarised, the rich are increasingly being seen as easy prey. Trevor Abrahmson, estate agent to the plutocrats of Hampstead and Highgate at Glentree Estates, said: "Crime against wealthy people is becoming quite prevelant. My wife was working out how many of her friends haven't been mugged for their watches. That would have been extraordinary ten years ago."

Exclusive restaurants are the best barometer of a recession for the wealthy. "When you can turn up at The Ivy and get a good seat," said Mr Abrahmson, "you know there is financial Armageddon."

Crash inquiry over wiring

Continued from page 1

Americans, 30 French, 28 Swiss, six British, three Germans, three Italians and two Greeks. Among the 215 passengers from 14 countries were 30 Swissair staff.

Among the victims were Joe LaMotta, the younger son of Jake LaMotta, the former world middleweight boxing champion, and Prince Bandar, a member of the Saudi royal family.

Swissair yesterday offered £12,500 to the families of each of the dead passengers "to help to meet the immediate financial needs". The company said that the payments would not affect families' rights to claim further compensation subsequently.

Investigators indicated yesterday that the cause of the fire will be centre of their inquiry, although it remained unclear whether the source of the fire was within the cockpit or the cargo hold area.

According to Philippe Bruggisser, Swissair's Chief Executive Officer, the airline modified the panel in March 1997. Three months later McDonnell Douglas and the US Civil Aviation Authorities together issued an airworthiness directive ordering all airlines to insulate the wires. "We had already carried out all the necessary modifications by the time we received the directive," said Mr Bruggisser.

Privately, Swissair technicians say an electrical shortcircuit appears the most likely cause of the company's worst ever disaster, although they say other causes, including engine failures, human error and terrorism, cannot be ruled out.



Norman Scoular: last-minute ticket

Family thought father had survived

By Adrian Lee

THE family of a British victim of the Swissair crash were initially told that he had missed the flight. They later learnt that Norman Scoular, 45, one of six Britons to die, had purchased a stand-by ticket.

Mr Scoular, a company chief executive originally from Bramhall, Greater Manchester, broke off from a telephone call to a colleague when the flight was called. He was returning to his home in Geneva after a business trip to the headquarters of his electrical company, SLI, in Canton, Massachusetts. A keen football supporter and golfer, he was divorced from his wife Elspeth and had two daughters and a son. Relatives called a helpline after hearing about the crash. "There was a language difficulty and we were told he wasn't on board," said his daughter, Angela, who still lives in Bramhall.

Two hours later, his family telephoned again, and were told he was on the passenger list. "We knew then that Dad must be dead. It was an awful moment," his daughter said.

Mr Scoular travelled to England every weekend to watch Liverpool, where he was a season-ticket holder. He was was at the peak of his career, said his deputy, Roger McSweeny. "He was a man of prodigious energy and a man of great warmth and charisma. He rang me from the airport that evening, but he had to break off the conversation."

Mr Scoular was brought up in Edinburgh and graduated from Glasgow University. He rose through the ranks with GEC to become a senior executive before joining SLI nine years ago. His father Alexander Scoular, 76, said: "Norman's strength was that he took on companies who were having financial difficulties and turning them round. He was the kind person who always helped the underdog. We were really proud of him."

The other British victims were named as Olivier Jackman, Heidi Kretschmer, Stephanie Shaw, Keitti Abery and Joyce Ratnavale.

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Branson tells of his private loves and public battles

BY DANIEL MCGRORY

RICHARD BRANSON has told for the first time of the unconventional private life he conducted as he built his Virgin empire.

In his autobiography Mr Branson tells of how he and his first wife, Kristen, had had "an open marriage", but he was devastated when she left him for a friend. Mr Branson said that his present wife, Joan, and two children knew of his past and "to leave out bits which I might feel slightly sensitive or embarrassed about would be a mistake. It is my life and that's what happened. I'm not asking people to judge me on it."

He says that, after their 23 years together, Joan tolerates his behaviour. "Of course I adore women, especially the beautiful ones. But Joan's a realist, which is one of the reasons why our marriage is so successful."

Mr Branson, who revels in self-publicity, recognises that admissions about his private life could earn him popular disapproval.

JUST DOING IT – WEEKEND, PAGE 1

Similarly, his revelations about battles with business competitors and the covert tricks he used to defeat rivals such as British Airways could reopen old wounds.

He recounts how his Virgin empire was founded on a gift of £20 that he reluctantly gave a struggling friend, Mike Oldfield. The guitarist said that he needed some instruments to make an experimental record including chimes. Mr Branson bought some, telling his friend, "£20 for tubular bells? They'd better be worth it." The album sold 40 million copies.

In his book *Losing My Virginity*, to be serialised in *The Times* from Monday, he gives his version of the dirty-tricks war with British Airways and tells of how he will never forgive them for trying to ruin his fledgling Virgin airline.

He has escaped death 11 times in his attempts to break various records by balloon and boat. He is currently preparing for another round of the world balloon attempt.

Success first came when he started the Virgin record label. He recounts his unorthodox ways of dealing with temperamental stars. When Oldfield threatened to pull out of his first London performance, Mr Branson gave the guitarist his own Bentley to keep the stage date. He tried to sign the Rolling Stones to his label, and tells of being threatened with a gun when he tried to defend Keith Richards from a jealous rival for his girlfriend.

Mr Branson's support is being courted by both Labour and the Tories and he mentions his friendship with the Blairs. His verdict on the new Government is guarded.

In the book he does not go into detail about his claims that his refusal to give a sizeable donation to the Tory party cost him the chance to run the National Lottery. The prospect of honours was also allegedly offered by senior Tory fundraisers in exchange for Mr Branson's financial support.

A Tory party spokesman said "The Conservative Party never accepts donations with strings attached and has never done so."

Mr Branson told of a "bizarre" invitation to dine with a senior Tory whom he had taken to be John Major, the then Prime Minister, "in the final run-up to the decision" on who should control the lottery.

Mr Branson said he did not believe that Mr Major knew of any of the approaches.

The pipe and slippers fraud worth over £1m

Helen Johnstone on the case of a crook who passed ten driving tests to set up string of identities

POLICE called him the pipe and slippers fraudster. He didn't smoke or drink and was always on the lookout for bargains. The only luxury he allowed himself was a Rolex watch.

Yet when David England was caught days before he was due to flee the country for the Philippines with his wife and five children, he had defrauded a dozen banks out of £777,000 pounds and had another £440,000 available to him on credit.

David England plotted his elaborate scheme during an earlier prison sentence for deception, Gavin Argent, prosecuting, told Lewes Crown Court in East Sussex yesterday.

England, 44, from Hove, started the fraud in 1995 after being released from jail when he opened his first account at the Natwest bank in Brighton. He went on to create nine different identities to set up a further 90 accounts.

The court was told that he created the identities by applying for all but one of ten driving tests in false names. His proudest boast to police was that he had passed them all first time. He then rented apartments — the homes for his aliases.

England spent his days withdrawing money from cashpoint machines, applying for loans and paying money back into banks, as well as keeping up with the ever-increasing mountain of paper work he was creating for himself. By moving money around, he built up the accounts to acquire good credit ratings before getting the maximum loans available, normally £15,000. He used a card index system to see at a glance how much credit he had and how much room there was for further loans.

Mr Argent said: "Initially the scheme met with success, but gradually the defendant met with the law of diminishing returns setting in."

England travelled the equivalent of twice around the world to set up the fraud, and his income was anything up to £60,000 to £70,000 a month. However his outgoings, including renting and servicing the properties, were around £30,000. Police estimated he also spent £100 a day to get around in taxis to collect post from his addresses and to visit cash points.

To operate the draud he had to work like a champion plate spinner. If he spent too long operating one, the others might fall, so he had to keep paying money in to keep them all going. As time went on he was keeping more and more plates in the air.

Mr Argent said he told officers it would have taken him around two weeks to clear out all his accounts: by the time his missing payments were noticed, he would have fled the country. Police later found a false passport, as well as evidence that he had acquired resident's permits and rented properties in Brazil and Panama. They found over £17,000, 81 files relating to various identities, 200 bank cards and credit cards and books on how to create false identities.

Paul Ozin, for England, said the scheme acquired a momentum of its own and his client greeted being exposed with a degree of relief. He said the debts of the enetrprise meant it was not that lucrative. The only lavish item he bought was a Rolex watch.

England admitted three charges of obtaining property by deception and one of attempting to obtain property by deception. He asked for 22 similar offences to be taken into account. Jailing him for five years, Judge Richard Hayward told him: "Only a substantial prison sentence is appropriate for such determined and sophisticated criminal behaviour."

The court was told that the British Banking Association would reimburse banks and other financial institutions with money recovered from England's fraud.

After the case, DC Richard Bebb, who helped to track down England, said the crime had been his life, job and hobby for the last three years. "I suppose he considers getting caught as paying his tax. He didn't lead the high life. He didn't smoke, gamble or drink. Even when he bought things with the money he would seek out bargains like three for two offers."

DC Lee Ridley added: "He had a pride in what he did and was a fairly boring person, which reduced his risk of being caught."



Police found a false passport England had taken out in the name of Smith and 200 bank cards, more than £17,000 in cash and 81 files relating to various identities



PRE-WEDDING nerves can never have been so intense. Leif Bunyan, left, had not even seen a picture of Glenn Emerton, the man with whom she was to exchange vows, and met him for the first time just before the ceremony. The bizarre union was organised by a radio station in Sydney that ran a promotion to find the ideal couple. Almost 400 entries were judged by thousands of listeners and a panel of psychologists, astrologists and radio announcers. Mr Emerton, 24, was chosen from five potential grooms and a committee of four of his friends then selected his wife from a shortlist of nine. "I couldn't have picked a better bride myself," Mr Emerton said. "She's even better than what I thought." Miss Bunyan, 22, said she was satisfied with her groom: "I think he's lovely." The couple are not officially married: in Australia marriages have to be registered a month ahead, so they underwent a "commitment ceremony". But they do get an expenses-paid honeymoon in Paris and a free trip to Antarctica on Valentine's Day. *(AFP)*

Your bride? She's the one in white

Hain sacked secretary unfairly, tribunal rules

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

IT WAS the ultimate humiliation for a Sixties radical turned government minister with special responsibilty for employment. An industrial tribunal ordered Peter Hain to pay £3,000 compensation to his former secretary after ruling yesterday that he had sacked her unfairly.

As former Opposition employment spokesman Mr Hain took a special interest in the issues of low pay, stress and job insecurity. As an employer, the tribunal was told, he paid his secretary £8,000 a year then made her redundant when she took time off suffering from stress.

Donna Easter, 32, a single mother of two, who worked in Mr Hain's constituency office in Neath, South Wales, for six years, was awarded the compensation after the tribunal decided that her dismissal was not a genuine redundancy.

Mr Hain, now a minister at the Welsh Office with responsibility for employment, allegedly told Miss Easter that he wanted her out for "bringing personal problems into the office".

Miss Easter began as a trainee in 1992, when she was paid £35 for a 15-hour week. She stayed and in 1995 become his secretary on a salary of £8,000. The tribunal was told that Miss Easter became ill with stress after a long-running dispute with neighbours and took two months' sick leave. Her absence caused "severe problems" in Mr Hain's office.



Donna Easter: still unable to find work

In April Mr Hain told Miss Easter her services were no longer required and her post was filled by two secretaries on a job-share scheme. She was given a £500 redundancy payment. She told the hearing: "He said I shouldn't bring my problems into the office and he could no longer give me employment."

After the ruling, Miss Easter said: 'I'm very sad that an employment minister should have caused my unemployment. I really enjoyed working for Mr Hain and put my heart and soul into it. It was my first proper job. I worked up until nine o'clock at night in the run-up to the general election and I loved it.

"I was very upset to lose my job and I've found it very difficult to find other work. People just can't believe that I was made redundant by an MP and they think I've done something wrong. I'm glad I've won my case and it proves that even an MP has to treat his staff properly."

Mr Hain, 48, was not at the hearing in Cardiff, just 300 yards from his desk at the Welsh Office. He was on holiday.

Rachel Davies, the tribunal chairman, said: "It is unfortunate that Mr Hain is not present today to put his side of the case, but we have unanimously found that she was unfairly dismissed." Miss Easter was awarded compensation of £2,746 and £299 holiday pay.

The tribunal ruling is clearly an embarrassment to Mr Hain, who is responsible for the New Deal programme aimed at getting people into work in Wales. As an employment spokesman for the Labour Party before the election, he also claimed that "Labour would ensure there is both fairness and stability in every office and on every shop floor".

Triple axe murderer is hunted by police

POLICE were last night searching for a killer who murdered two men and a woman with an axe.

Police found the bodies of the three victims, who were all in their early thirties, inside a flat in Slough, Berkshire, after relatives had reported them missing. The victims had all sustained head wounds.

Detective Superintendent Trevor Davies, of Thames Valley Police, said the bodies could have been in the flat for more than a week. The woman is believed to have been have a relationship with both men.

"We have to remain open-minded about the possible motive because it is still very early in the investigation and there is a lot of work to be done," he said.

Superintendent Davies, who is leading the team investigating the murders, sought to calm fears in the town. "I would like to reassure people in the Slough area that this appears to be a one-off offence," he said.

A Home Office pathologist was yesterday carrying out a post-mortem examination on the three bodies at Wexham Park Hospital, in Slough.

Anyone with information about the murders is asked to ring police on 01753 506990.

'Ello, 'ello, it's the laughing policeman

BY ADAM FRESCO

A JUDGE halted a trial yesterday after the jury collapsed in giggles on hearing that the defendant had broken into a police station and pretended to be an inspector, greeting a real officer with the words "Evenin' all".

Simon Davey, 29, went to the police in the dead of night to report himself for not being able to pay a taxi fare. No one was at Hailsham police station, East Sussex, so he climbed through a lavatory window, donned an inspector's hat and sergeant's jacket and manned the front desk.

He tried to leave a message on an answering machine, but broke it. A special constable arriving in the early hours banged on the doors to get his attention, so Mr Davey opened a back door, rocked on his heels and said: "Evenin' all."

He was charged with burglary of a piece of telephone wire, the top of a broken answer machine and some blank statement forms. But his trial at Lewes Crown Court had to be halted as the jury and court staff — including police who gave evidence — could not stop laughing as a tape of his interview was played.

Mr Davey said he had had eight or ten pints at the Eastbourne Darts Open before a friend called a taxi. He realised halfway home he could not pay the fare. He told police: "I thought there's no police here so I will be the policeman on duty. I saw an inspector's hat so I put it on — just in case there was another idiot like me that night — and decided I would be on the front desk."

Judge Richard Brown had to stifle a chuckle as the jurors wiped tears from their eyes. He ordered the tape of Mr Davey's interview with the police to be stopped and, after consulting lawyers for the defence and prosecution, directed the jury to deliver a not guilty verdict. Mr Davey was bound over for two years.



If you're a friend of Jack Daniel's, drop us a line at the Jack Daniel Distillery, Lynchburg, Tennessee 37352 USA. Or visit us at www.jackdaniels.com

EVERY SEPTEMBER, someone in Lynchburg, Tennessee bakes Mr Jack Daniel a birthday cake. (This year, it was Margaret Tolley's turn.)

Trouble is, no one knows for sure just when Mr. Jack's birthday occurs. Nobody has ever been able to hunt down the exact date. And while some claim he was born in 1846, others say it was 1850. But this minor confusion hasn't kept folks around here from celebrating our founder's birth each and every September. Like the whiskey that bears his name, that's something that won't ever change.



JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

THE SUNDAY TIMES

LOVE AND WAR



Vera Brittain's first world war classic, Testament of Youth, told the story of the "lost generation" wiped out in the trenches. At its heart was her love affair with Roland Leighton, the dashing best friend of her brother Edward at Uppingham School. Their letters are now to be published and they reveal the almost unbearable poignancy of their relationship

Tomorrow in News Review

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Trimble consults his party on face-to-face meeting with Adams

BY MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

DAVID TRIMBLE, Northern Ireland's First Minister, will consult the Ulster Unionist Party's executive in Belfast this morning before announcing an historic face-to-face meeting with Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein's president, late next week.

The meeting will be the first such encounter between the leaders of Unionism and republicanism. Mr Trimble will actually talk directly to Mr Adams for the first time on Monday, but only in the context of a much larger meeting of all the Province's party leaders to discuss the new assembly.

The face-to-face encounter will *mark another major milestone on the* road to peace in Northern Ireland, but Unionist officials remain adamant that Sinn Fein will not be admitted to the new executive until the IRA has begun disarming.

Speaing in Dublin yesterday, President Clinton said the progress of Northern Ireland's peace process was "helping the whole world awaken from history's nightmares" by showing that ancient enmities could be overcome. If it was successfully concluded "we can say to the Middle East, we can say in the Aegean, we can say in the Indian sub-continent, we can say in the tribal strife of Africa: 'Look at this thing that happened in Northern Ireland. There were the Troubles for 30 years, conflicts for hundreds of years. This can be done.'

"You can't imagine what it will enable the United States to do in trying to stand up for peace in other parts of the world," he added: "The potential impact of resolving this could wash over many more people than just those that live on this *island.*"

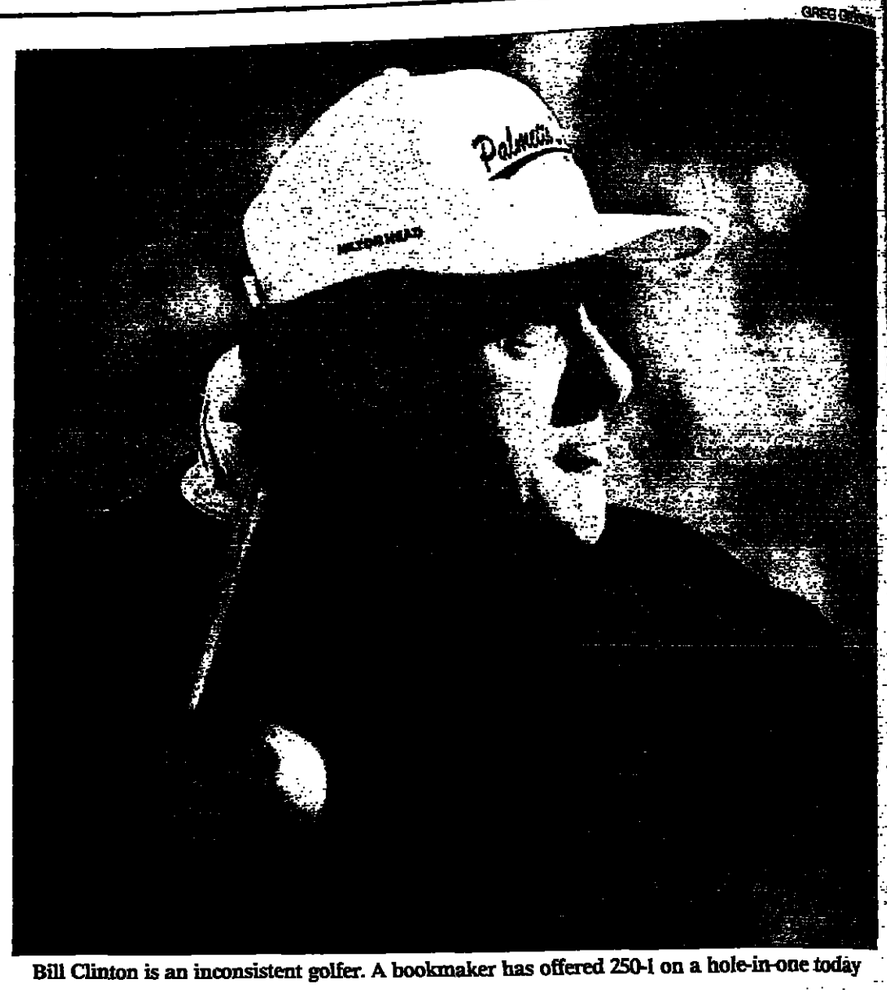
The President had talks with Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, addressed a reception for dignitaries and visited an American computer company on a low-key day that was overshadowed by his political problems at home and contrasted sharply with the euphoria of his 1995 visit.

Speaking of his emotional visit to Omagh on Thursday he said he was "overwhelmed by the dimension of the tragedy and the random, cruel nature of the violence", and described his conversations with the bereaved families as an "amazing experience".

Mr Ahern lavished praise on the beleaguered President, just as Tony Blair had done on Thursday. Mr Clinton had "given us an enormous amount of time, a huge amount of support, and an enormous amount of encouragement to move forward," he said. "Never before have we had such intense and sustained contact from the US president." His visit had given Unionists and Sinn Fein the confidence to take the brave steps that they had this week.

Mike McCurry, the Whitehouse press secretary, denied the Monica Lewinsky affair had diminished the President's power or influence abroad. Mr Blair, Mr Ahern and other leaders still saw him as a "commanding presence both here in Ireland and on the world stage".

The enthusiastic receptions he had received *from the public were "a reminder he has many fans as well as* many detractors at home".



Bill Clinton is an inconsistent golfer. A bookmaker has offered 250-1 on a hole-in-one today

Clinton to fulfil golfing dream at Ballybunion

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON AND MARTIN FLETCHER

PRESIDENT Clinton will take refuge from his pressing domestic and political problems with a round of golf today on one of the finest courses in the world.

He was due to play the Ballybunion links in Co Kerry at the end of his visit to Ireland in December 1995, but his trip was cut short by the Bosnian crisis.

His ambition to play at Ballybunion has only increased. Today he will step on to the first tee — having been given a 250-to-1 chance of a hole in one by Ireland's leading bookmaker — with Dick Spring, the former Irish Foreign Minister.

Nearly every American President this century has played golf. Dwight Eisenhower, a fanatic, played 800 rounds during eight years in office and installed the White House putting green. John Kennedy is ranked first among presidential golfers with a 7-10 handicap.

Lyndon Johnson was powerful but erratic and renowned for taking "mulligans", dropping ball after ball until one shot suited him. Richard Nixon refused to break any rules and, with tireless practice, once got his handicap down to 12.



Gerald Ford: ranked No 2 among presidents

Gerald Ford, ranked second, was and remains a compulsive golfer. Jimmy Carter was a renegade, a non-player. Ronald Reagan played only once a year as President and preferred riding horses. George Bush valued his rounds of golf by speed of play rather than the score.

Mr Clinton's handicap is close to 20, but he has scored in the low 80s. His flying elbow and unorthodox backswing make his game inconsistent. He offends purists by *his occasionally scruffy attire* and slow play, often taking five hours a round.

ALAN CLARK FORUM



Alan Clark, the Tory MP, historian and celebrated diarist, will be speaking on his new book, ***The Tories: Conservatives and the Nation State 1922-1997*** (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20) at a Times/Dillons Forum on Wednesday, September 16, 1998.
The forum will be chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of ***The Times***, and there will be an opportunity to put questions to the former Minister.
The forum, the 50th in the Times/Dillons Forum series, will take place at 7.30pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. The admission price of £10 (concessions £7.50 for students, pensioners and the unemployed on production of valid I.D.) includes a reduction of £2 on copies of ***The Tories***.

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Lonely hearts ad double rapist is jailed for life

BY ADAM FRESCO

A MAN who imprisoned and raped a young student while he was on bail for raping a trainee solicitor he met through a lonely hearts advertisement was given two life sentences yesterday.

George Hayes, 27, was said to have shown no mercy to the student who begged him to leave her alone because she wanted to remain a virgin until she married her boyfriend.

The judge described Hayes as violent, sexually deviant, manipulative and superficially a highly plausible liar. As he handed out his sentence, including eight years on each of four counts of rape of the trainee solicitor and six years on two counts of false imprisonment, Hayes sat impassively in the dock.

Judge Graham Boal, QC, said: "Your attitude to women is what ordinary, right-minded people would describe as sick."

Hayes met the trainee solicitor, in her twenties, after she responded to his advertisement in *The Guardian* and he told her he had a respectable job with Lloyd's insurance. On their second meeting they had sex with her consent, but when she said she wanted to sleep he punched a wall mirror before he bit, slapped and repeatedly raped her while armed with a knife.

During the attack the woman managed to grab the knife and stabbed him in the back and shoulder but he overpowered her and continued the assault. He let her go the next morning and she reported him to police but he denied the offence and was given bail.



Hayes: had sick attitude to women, said judge

Nigerian-born Hayes, from Stoke Newington, northeast London, who came to this country in 1984, was on bail when he offered to help the 21-year-old foreign student to find accommodation. He took her to a hotel room and raped her.

He had denied raping and falsely imprisoning both women last year. He received the life sentences for the attacks on the student. Judge Boal said: "I am convinced you will remain a serious danger to women."

When Hayes was convicted by a jury the judge said: "One of the common features to both victims was their vivid descriptions of what have been described as this man's mood swings. "As I said in my summing up, this man shows symptoms attributed to Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. On all the evidence this man is not only violent but also sexually deviant and on the face of it a devious, superficial and highly plausible liar."

Talking of the first attack Judge Boal said: "Your treatment of that young woman from Bristol was brutal. You repeatedly raped her and injured her quite badly and showed her no mercy.

"What convinced me you are dangerous is the fact that while on bail for those offences you mounted an almost carbon copy attack on that young student from the Midlands."

Hayes will not be eligible for parole for at least nine years and will be on licence for the rest of his life. If when he is released he is seen as a danger he can be sent straight back to jail.

ANDRE CAMARA



The Japanese "Beetles" outside the Abbey Road studios where their mentors recorded. The group starts a *Comical History Tour* in London today

'Air rage' lands passenger in jail

BY CLAUDIA JOSEPH

A WOMAN was jailed for "air rage" yesterday after she crushed the leg of a cabin crew member and headbutted two others during a flight back from America.

Elizabeth Elliott, 24, pleaded guilty at Isleworth Crown Court to endangering an aircraft and its passengers and two assaults causing actual bodily harm. She was sentenced to 15 months.

Judge Anthony Durrant said: "This is the sort of offence that calls for a deterrent sentence."

Elliott, who has been in custody since the incident on June 2, is the first passenger to be jailed for "air rage" since British Airways introduced its "yellow card" warning system for passengers.

The court heard that Elliott, of Ealing, West London, took out her frustrations on cabin crew after being refused entry at JFK airport to the United States.

The self-confessed heroin addict, who was on prescribed methadone, was admitted to duty-free where she bought whisky. She got drunk and lashed out at cabin crew when they refused her more alcohol.

British Airways said: "We have always maintained the view that there can never be any excuse or justification for violent attacks on cabin crew — the very people who have responsibility for safety on board."

Civil Aviation Authority figures show that there were 62 attacks on British flights last year, compared with 13 in 1993.

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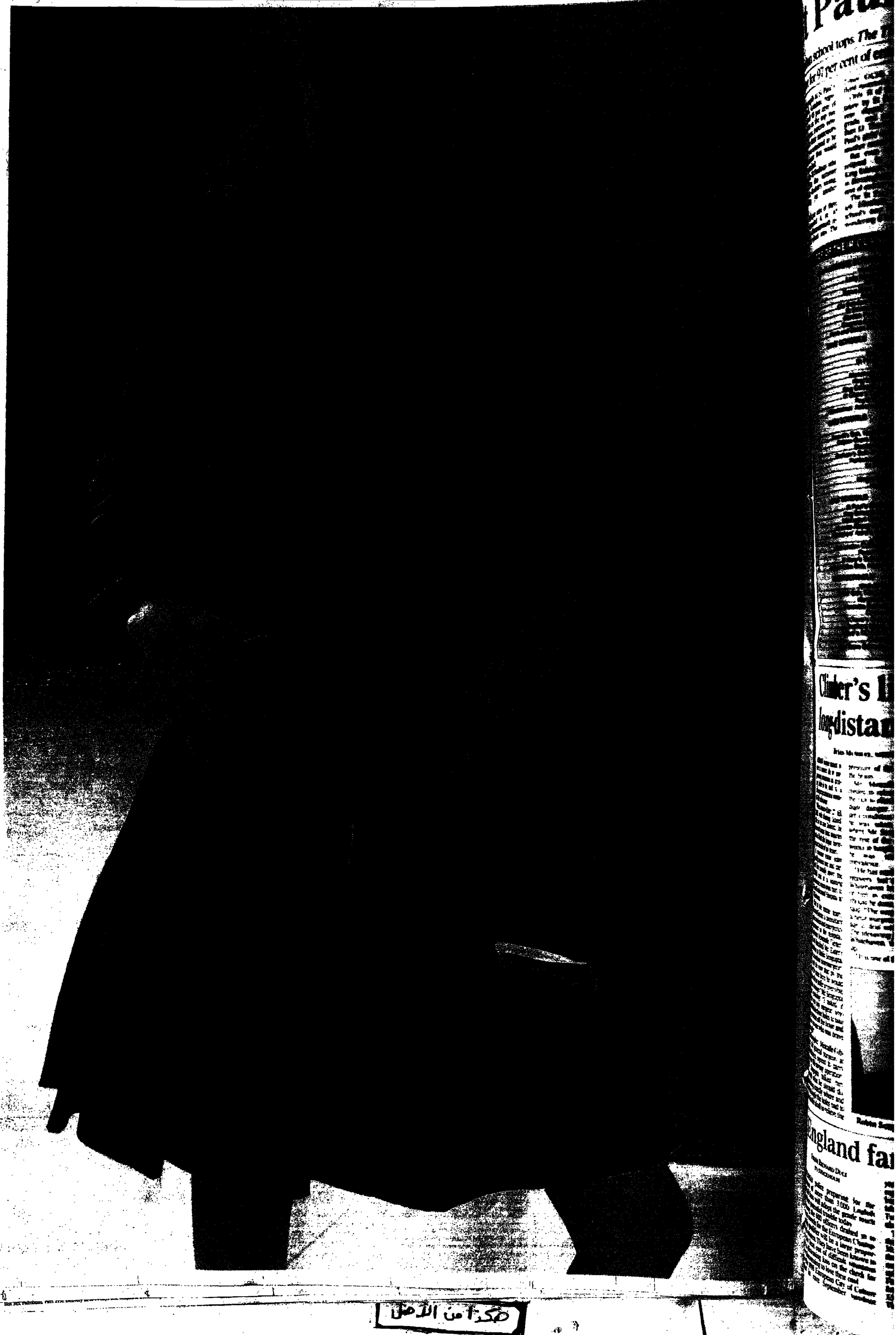
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هكذا من الأهلي

St Paul's girls set GCSE standard

London school tops *The Times* list with A grades or better for 97 per cent of entries, writes **John O'Leary**

WHEN the pupils at St Paul's Girls' School, London, registered a record 95 per cent of GCSE entries at the top two grades last year, experts sympathised with their successors because it was assumed to be an achievement that would never be matched.

Today, the 78 Paulinas who took GCSEs this summer prove their doubters wrong, establishing yet another record.

With 97.4 per cent of their entries awarded A or A* grades, the Hammersmith independent school tops *The Times* GCSE table for the third successive year.

Only 18 of the 449 GCSEs taken by St Paul's girls this year slipped below the A grade, and none was lower than D. The 64 per cent of St Paul's girls' entries at A* was another record for the school.

But even this mark was eclipsed by second-placed King Edward VI High School, in Birmingham, where 67 per cent of entries were starred.

The St Paul's girls' results left Elizabeth Diggory, the school's new High Mistress, wondering if the feat could be repeated. "People do not think about the league tables here and there is certainly no question of having to get 100 per cent at grade A. I have been enormously impressed with the rounded education the girls get," she said.

Miss Diggory, a former head of Manchester High School, who took over as High Mistress this week, said: "They are highly motivated, stable girls who benefit from excellent teaching. But we also put great store by music, sport and the other extra-curricular activities that girls enjoy." The school, which opened in 1904 and charges fees of almost £7,000 a year, numbers Harriet Harman, the former Social Services Secretary, and Shirley Conran, the writer, among its alumnae. The 628 day pupils do not wear school uniform and are encouraged to think independently.

Professor Alan Smithers, an expert on examinations who heads Liverpool University's Centre for Education and Employment Research, said the St Paul's girls' results were outstanding. "Clearly they reflect both the pupils and the school. The intake is highly selective, but that applies to a lot of schools. There has to be something special about the ethos, the traditions and the quality of the staff."

The GCSE table is again dominated by girls' schools, with only one boys' school — ninth-placed Westminster — in the top ten. Sevenoaks School, in Kent, is the top mixed school, at 26th.

State schools fare better in the table than in last week's A-level equivalent. Nine grammar schools appear in the top 50, although the 14th-placed Wolverhampton Girls' High School is the only representative of state education in the top 20. All the top schools have improved their scores since last year, some dramatically. St Mary's School, Calne, in Wiltshire, for example, rises from 49th to tenth place after seeing the proportion of A and A* grades improve from 68.8 per cent to 82.5 per cent.

Independent schools, which only published their results nationally yesterday, have improved their performance significantly on last year. More than 48 per cent of all GCSE entries were graded A* or A, compared with 45.2 per cent in 1997 and 14.7 per cent nationally this summer.

Almost 18 per cent received an A* grade, up from 15 per cent last year. The national average is 4.1 per cent.

STUART CONWAY

TOP SCHOOLS AT GCSE

		Candi	%A*	%A+A*
1	St Paul's Girls' Sch, C London — Girls	78	64.1	97.4
2	King Edward VI HS, Birmingham — Girls	76	67.1	94.7
3	Withington Girls Sch, Manchester — Girls	81	55.6	91.2
4	Wycombe Abbey Sch, High Wycombe, Bucks — Girls	83	49.6	80.6
5	Haberdashers' Aske's Sch, Borehamwood, Herts — Girls	109	47.8	89.2
6	Oxford High Sch, Oxford — Girls	82	46.4	87.6
7	North London Collegiate Sch, Edgware, NW London — Girls	105	44.5	86.5
8	Perse Sch, Cambridge — Girls	84	48.8	82.9
9	Westminster Sch, C London — Boys	103	36.1	82.8
10	St Mary's Sch, Calne, Wilts — Girls	55	39.8	82.5

TOP OF THEIR CLASS

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS

1. Watford Grammar School
2. Lady Margaret Sch, W London
3. St Albans Girls' School
4. Dame Alice Owen's, Potters Bar
5. Silverdale Sch, Sheffield
6. Old Swinford Hospital, W Midlands
7. St Edward's College, Liverpool
8. Warden Park, Cuckfield, Sussex
9. Coopers Coburn School, Essex
10. Herts and Essex HS, Bishop's Stortford

BOYS' SCHOOLS

1. Westminster School
2. Eton College, Windsor
3. St Paul's Sch, SW London
4. Winchester College
5. Manchester Grammar School
6. King's Coll Sch, Wimbledon
7. King Edward's Sch, Birmingham
8. St Olave's Gram Sch, Orpington
9. Royal Gram Sch, Guildford
10. Haberdashers' Aske's Sch, Borehamwood

MIXED SCHOOLS

1. Sevenoaks School
2. Bancroft's Sch, Woodford Green, Essex
3. Colyton Gram Sch, Colyford, Devon
4. Stockport Grammar School
5. Chetham's Sch of Music, Manchester
6. Portsmouth Grammar School
7. St Peter's School, York
8. Rugby School
9. King's School, Canterbury
10. Hymers College, Hull

GIRLS' SCHOOLS

1. St Paul's Girls' School, London
2. King Edward VI HS, Birmingham
3. Withington Girls Sch, Manchester
4. Wycombe Abbey Sch, High Wycombe
5. Haberdashers' Aske's Sch, Borehamwood
6. Oxford High School
7. North London Collegiate Sch, Edgware
8. Perse School, Cambridge
9. St Mary's School, Calne, Wiltshire
10. Lady Eleanor Holles Sch, Hampton, SW London

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS

1. Wolverhampton Girls' HS
2. Tiffin Girls' Sch, Kingston-Upon Thames
3. Kendrick School, Reading
4. Henrietta Barnett School, Barnet
5. Chelmsford County HS
6. St Olave's Gram Sch, Orpington
7. Stratford Upon Avon Gram Sch
8. St Michael's RC Gram Sch, N London
9. Colchester County HS
10. Colyton Gram School, Colyford, Devon



Pupils at St Paul's, Hammersmith, celebrate their record-breaking GCSE successes as their High Mistress, Elizabeth Diggory, looks on

Boys fall further behind as sex gap widens

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

THE annual GCSE league table offers yet more evidence of the seemingly unstoppable rise of girls at the expense of boys.

In every set of tests and examinations from the age of seven until GCSE at 16, girls are on top. Even at A level, girls' schools now take most of the leading places, and the fairer sex is also gaining ground in higher education.

The growth of the trend over the past decade has baffled experts, and is not replicated to the same extent in other developed countries.

For most of the 1980s, Government campaigns encouraged girls to take more science subjects. Examination league tables did not exist, but boys' schools were thought to have had the top results.

Now boys are said to be in a crisis of confidence, covering up their academic shortcomings with a laddish culture which spurns learning.

Some boys' schools still produce excellent results, and a handful of mixed schools are also high achievers. Yet since 1994, *The Times* GCSE table has never had fewer than eight girls' schools in the top ten. This year's top score of 97.4 per cent at A or A* was 11 percentage points better than in 1994. Over the same period, the top score for A* alone has risen from 44.9 per cent to 67.1 per cent — these increases were both made by girls' schools.

Felicity Lusk, the headmistress of Oxford High School, which has seen the proportion of A and A* entries rise from 67 per cent to 87 per cent in four years, says GCSE's emphasis on coursework offers part of the answer. "Girls do seem to persevere more than boys and their confidence has been rising with the results," she said.

Professor Alan Smithers, of Liverpool University, said selective girls' schools enjoy a double advantage. "They have a cluster of high ability and the particular approach girls bring to their work, which allows them to focus their teaching."

Climber's life saved by long-distance surgery

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A BRAIN surgeon helped to save a climber's life by telephoning instructions on drilling holes in his skull to a colleague operating at a hospital 100 miles away

When Andrew Elder, 27, fell 200ft while climbing Scafell Pike in the Lake District, he received serious head injuries and a blood clot began forming on the side of his brain.

A mountain rescue team quickly reached him and carried him carefully down the 3,200ft peak to a waiting ambulance, which took him to West Cumberland Hospital at Whitehaven.

One of the rescue team, Michael Greene, a consultant in the accident and emergency department at the hospital, telephoned Newcastle General and described Mr Elder's condition to Robin Sengupta, the consultant neurosurgeon. "I took the view that by the time he came here he would either die or suffer irreversible brain damage," Mr Sengupta said yesterday. "I asked if there was any surgeon who would make bore holes to take the pressure off the brain and there was one who was brave enough."

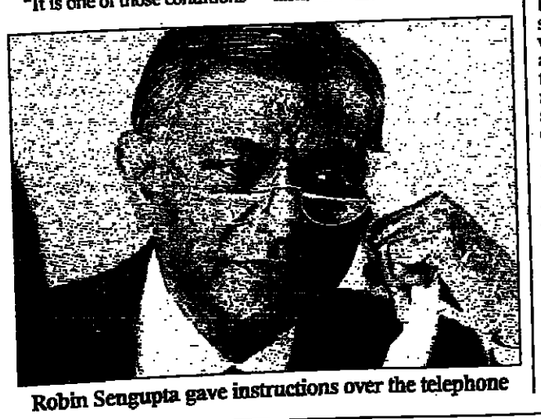
Christopher Metcalfe-Gibson, the general surgeon at Whitehaven, agreed to carry out the life-saving operation. Mr Sengupta talked him through what he should do, explaining exactly where and at what angle the holes had to be cut in the skull to relieve the pressure of the blood clot on the brain.

Mr Metcalfe-Gibson succeeded in releasing enough of the clot to eliminate the immediate danger. Once Mr Elder's condition was stabilised, he was taken to Newcastle where Mr Sengupta removed the rest of the clot. After two weeks in hospital recuperating he was sent home to convalesce.

"He has made a remarkable recovery, but all credit to the Whitehaven hospital for care of him in exactly the way it should be done," Mr Sengupta said. "The surgeon, who is not a neurosurgeon, had the courage to deal with the situation. The lifesaving job was done in Whitehaven, we just tidied it up.

"It is one of those conditions where rapid treatment makes a big difference. It was on the left side of the brain which is more important as it controls the thought process and speech. If you remove the clot in time people can get better. There is no doubt in my mind that without surgery in Whitehaven he would either have died or suffered brain damage."

Nigel Woodcock, chief executive of the West Cumbria Health Care NHS Trust, said Whitehaven was further from a teaching hospital than anywhere else in Britain. "We have to look after patients who are injured in 500 of the remotest square miles in Britain and we have shown from what happened on this occasion that we are up to the task," he said.



Robin Sengupta gave instructions over the telephone

Jail for man who left asbestos near school

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A MAN has been jailed and four others have been fined for dumping asbestos in Birmingham. Children were found playing with some of the 300 bags left near a school.

Judge Charles Harris told Birmingham Crown Court that the act represented the "most astonishing criminal irresponsibility". The case, brought by the Environment Agency and the Health and Safety Executive, related to the removal and disposal of blue, white and brown asbestos from a factory roof in Aston between September 15 and 29, 1997.

Skips designed to take the asbestos to a tip became full. Paul Evans of Erdington, the sub-contactor, hired a van which was used to dump the asbestos around the city. Yesterday, he was jailed for nine months, half of which was suspended, after admitting 11 charges.

Bernard Rose and his son Phillip of Aston, who own Rollco Rivet and Screw Company from where the waste was removed, were fined a total of £10,000 and £4,000, and their company fined £40,000 and £30,000 costs.

James McNeill of Raddons Road, Halesowen, and Martyn Joyce of Ambley Grove, Witton, were each fined £6,000 and £1,000 costs.

England fans face a soft landing

FROM RICHARD DUCE
IN STOCKHOLM

SWEDISH police preparing for the invasion of more than 3,000 English football fans will adopt the gentle touch to defuse potential trouble today.

Among the 600 officers drafted in to control crowds for the European Championship qualifier will be a large proportion of women. They have been known to take the heat out of difficult situations with a disarming kiss on the cheek for those threatening to lose their cool.

As the 1998 European City of Culture basked in rare September sunshine yesterday, the vanguard of the English support was beginning to arrive and heading for authentically named Swedish bars such as Oliver Twist and Dick Turpin, where they can expect to pay about £4 for a pint of lager.

The Rasunda stadium to the north of the city centre, which has a capacity of 30,000, is sold out. Sweden missed out on the World Cup and this is their first major international for several years. In spite of England's World Cup foray in France, there is little evidence of football fatigue and the Football Association's 3,500 allocated tickets have all been sold. The high cost of alcohol and the fact that the game comes so soon after France 98 has, however, deterred many ticketless fans from travelling and no touts could be found in Stockholm last night.

Some 2,500 English supporters will arrive in Stockholm today and local police are relying on half a dozen "spotters" from the National Criminal Intelligence Service to pick out known troublemakers.

No more than 10 to 15 so-called category C fans are expected to try to visit Sweden. Claes Cassel, a spokesman for Stockholm police, said yesterday that, instead of being sent straight back, they would be kept under strict surveillance.

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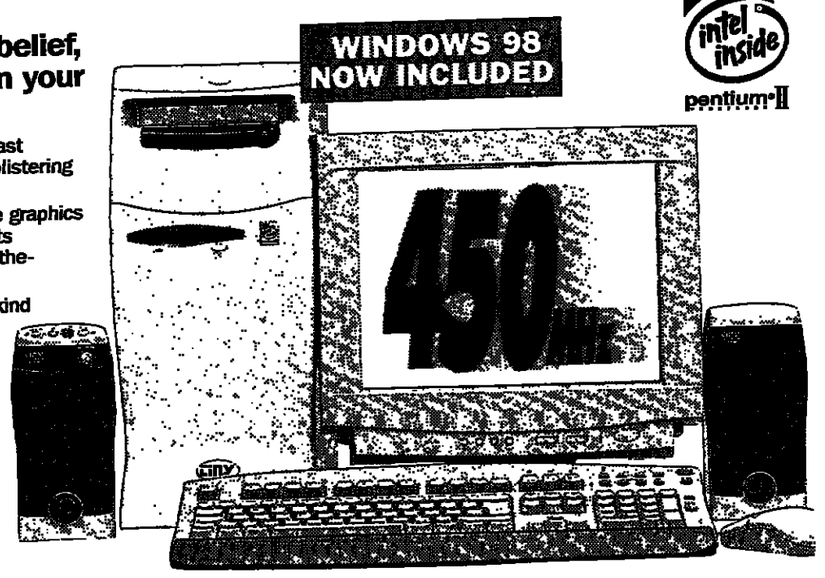
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All candidates for top honours face vetting

Blair keen to preclude charges of cronyism and rewarding party donations, writes Valerie Elliott

ANYONE nominated for a peerage or knighthood in future will be subject to personal vetting to end charges of cronyism and "cash for honours". The move is part of the Government's determination to clean up public life.

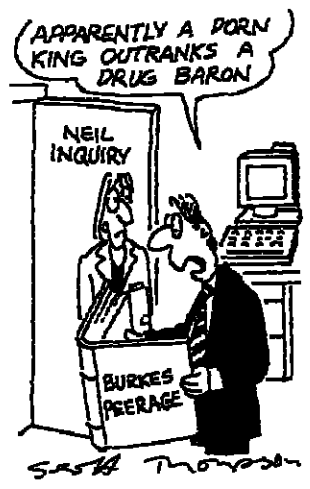
At present only about 5 per cent of honours — those awarded for overtly political reasons, such as working peerages — are checked. Honours put forward by government departments to recognise contributions to business, the arts or charity are not vetted.

The impetus for change has been prompted by a report that will be sent to Tony Blair next month from Lord Neill of Bladen, QC, chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, on the future of party political funding. A key element of the committee's findings is the need to remove any allegations of sleaze from the honours, which are given in the name of the Queen.

A senior Whitehall source indicated last night that Mr Blair and senior ministers were keen to introduce tighter checks before senior honours were granted. "Someone could easily give a party £1 million and get a knighthood for services to industry or sport, but no one would ever know. There is nothing wrong with a political donation, but the crux is, did it buy the award?"

The change will mean an extension of the workload for the political honours scrutiny committee chaired by Lord Pym. This committee of three senior Privy Counsellors — the others are Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde for Labour and Lord Thomson of Monifieth for the Liberal Democrats — vets all lists of working peers put forward by each party leader.

The committee also checks names that appear on prime ministers' dissolution and resignation honours lists. A certificate signed by each party chief whip listing any personal donations or services given by



an individual to the party in the past five years is submitted to the committee. It is also expected to include information about any indirect donations, such as funding for a cause close to the party interests, and any donation given by a company or trade union connected to the nominee.

The scrutiny committee, who examine the circumstances of each individual, would clearly be suspicious of any "recent and unusual" pattern of donations to a party rather than "regular and continuous" support over a long period. They would also make a judgment about the size of a donation, as well as an individual's wider achievements. Occasionally they object outrightly to a nomination and sometimes inform the Prime Minister that the timing is wrong and the individual should wait.

More discreet checks on a nominee's probity and financial standing are also made by the committee. Part of their role as senior members of the Privy Council is to weed out individuals who might become a future source of embarrassment.

The committee has no power to vet nominations for life peers, knights and dames who are put forward by government departments for contributions to industry, arts, sport, entertainment, education, health, science or any other walk of life. However, Lord Pym and his colleagues have made clear to the Prime Minister that if he wishes them to vet other names they are willing to do so.

When Lord Pym gave evidence to the Neill committee, he agreed that his committee could vet all nominees who had donated more than £5,000 to a political party. Lord Thomson told Lord Neill: "I think that would be a very healthy development."

Tories to choose leader for Scots poll challenge

By Shirley English

SCOTTISH Tories will tomorrow choose between a right-wing Edinburgh lawyer and a populist former MP to lead them into next May's Scottish parliament elections.

David McLetchie, 46, a partner in a law firm and friend of Michael Forsyth, is widely tipped as the front-runner. Phil Gallie, 59, who started life as a dockyard electrical fitter and prides himself on his street-fighting qualities, is a dark horse but unlikely to be anything more than an also-ran.


Gallie, left, is seen as an also-ran while McLetchie, right is thought to be favourite to lead the Scottish Tories

Whoever wins will be charged with reviving the party's dismal fortunes north of the border where the Tories are battling with the Liberal Democrats to avoid fourth place in the opinion polls, way behind Labour and the Scottish National Party.

Leading a party which has no MPs, Euro-MPs or local authorities in its control in Scotland is not a job for the faint-hearted.

Mr McLetchie, former president of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association, is a virtual unknown to voters and is thought rather dull even by his supporters.

Mr Gallie — famed for his "rent-a-quote" populist views on hanging (for) and the single currency (against) — appeared to torpedo his chances at the start by admitting in an interview that he was "a bit of a loose canon".

An 250-strong electoral college made up of approved prospective candidates for the Scottish parliament elections, constituency chairmen and other party officers will vote in a ballot in Edinburgh tomorrow.

Mr McLetchie, who grew up in an Edinburgh tenement, the son of two shop assistants, is promoting himself as a "fresh face". He believes his leadership will be a symbol to voters of the changes that have taken place in the party since last year. "The Scottish parliament is a huge opportunity — 1997 was year zero, although half a million voted for us. I want to lead a disciplined and united party team that can deliver a clear and concise message to voters."

Mr Gallie, who admits he once voted Labour, believes that the fight ahead to stem the rise of the SNP needs the aggressive approach which he can deliver. The former MP for Ayr argues that the leadership is not about just one man, but about promoting the new talent that has emerged in the party. "I want to make them household names by next May."

PR is voted a success in village trial

By Simon de Bruxelles

BRITAIN'S first experiment with proportional representation has been voted a success, despite 16 counts to work out the result.

The trial run was conducted under the auspices of the Electoral Reform Society in the Dartmoor village of Moretonhampstead. The outcome was a victory for the proponents of PR, a surpise third place for a small anti-Europe party and a headache for the volunteers called in to count the votes.

Almost half the 1,183 registered voters took part and each wrote their preferences numbered from one to seven beside the 18 candidates on the ballot paper.

Although they were standing for nothing more than fun, the candidates devoted weeks to campaigning. The Liberal Democrats won, taking the first and fourth of the four seats on offer.

The election was staged by a local television company for a documentary later this month.

METRO

The destination for the competition on page 5 of *Metro* today is Wyoming, not Montana.

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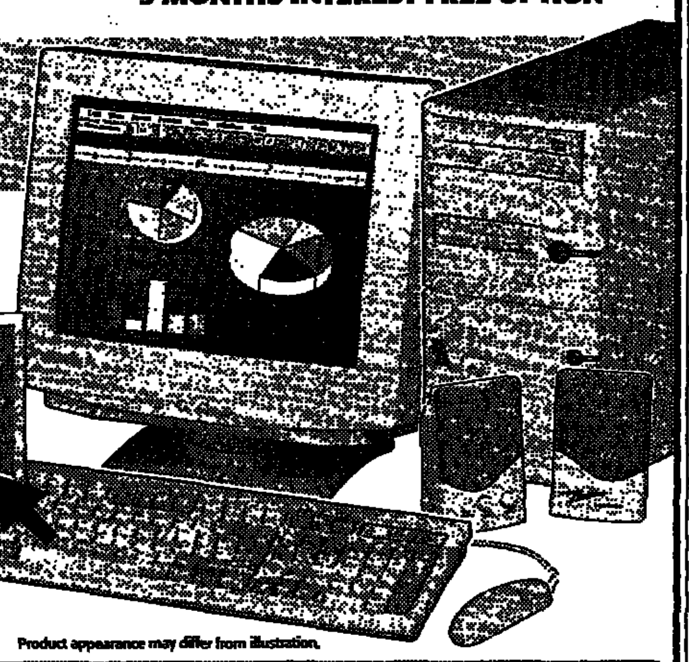
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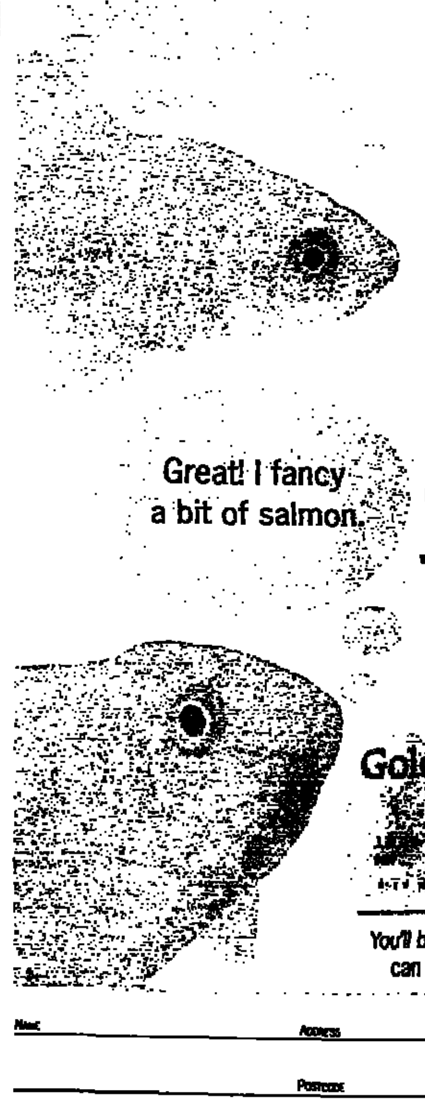


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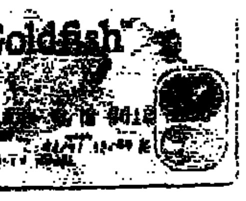
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Epic that enraged three nations

A new film on the founder of Pakistan has been attacked by all sides, writes **Dalya Alberge**

THE producer of an epic film about the founder of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, described yesterday how he was almost destroyed financially and physically by hostility towards the project in Pakistan, India and Britain.

Professor Akbar Ahmed, 55, a don at Selwyn College, Cambridge, and a respected Islamic scholar who has lived in Britain since 1988, has produced a film starring Christopher Lee in the title role and James Fox and Patricia Hodge as Earl and Countess Mountbatten of Burma.

Jinnah, which coincides with the 50th anniversary of his death this month and will be shown at the London Film Festival in the autumn, was made as much for "an international audience that knows little about the founder of Pakistan" as for young Pakistanis who needed to be reminded of their roots, Professor Ahmed said.

He began work on the film in the early 1990s and immediately encountered bitter confrontation on every side. He said: "The film was attacked in India as Pakistani propaganda. For them, there is something demonic about Jinnah, who broke the unity of India. It was attacked in Pakistan.



The actor Christopher Lee, left, playing Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and a photograph of Jinnah taken in 1947

They said I was a Hindu and a Zionist agent. It was described as a Hindu plot to destroy Pakistan.

"I was so frightened that, in the InterContinental Hotel in Karachi with Christopher Lee and the 100-strong crew, I was scared that someone would come up with a knife and stab us. It became the subject of national debate because of the importance of Jinnah. Through jealousy and malice, they were determined to destroy the film.

"In today's Pakistan, he is too great, almost untouchable, and in an indirect way I am holding up a mirror to Pakistan today, saying 'This is the man who created Pakistan and what have you become?'.

"I was attacked in Britain for being an uppity Pakistani challenging history. Mountbatten doesn't come out well in it for launching a hate campaign against Jinnah."

The movie is expected to offend many for exploring the relationship between India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Lady Mountbatten — based, said Professor Ahmed, on her diaries and letters in which she spoke of the "strange relationship — most of it spiritual — which exists between us". Mountbatten will be portrayed as aloof and arrogant.

Pakistanis have been further outraged that Christopher Lee, an actor most associated with blood-sucking *Dracula* and horror movies, should play one of their heroes. The producer found himself having to deny reports that Lee was to be "blacked up".

"Jinnah was very fair in his complexion. He could have got away with being an Englishman with a bit of a tan. Every Pakistani who has seen rushes of the film thinks the likeness is extraordinary," he said.

Determined to produce Pakistan's answer to *Braveheart* — Mel Gibson's epic about the Scottish nationalist hero William Wallace — he raised more than £3.3 million to shoot it, more than half from Pakistanis in Britain and the United States.

Jinnah (1876-1948) has been described as the most undervalued world statesman of the 20th century, a man who altered the course of history and the map of the world. Professor Ahmed set out to portray him as a charismatic Muslim statesman who averted civil war between 90 million Muslims and 255 million Hindus by securing partition.

"This will explore the life of this extraordinary man, one of the great figures of history," he said. "A model of a modern Muslim leader who believes, for example, in human rights, minority rights and women's rights and who was a man of total integrity, taking only one rupee a month as his pay. He was the father of the nation.

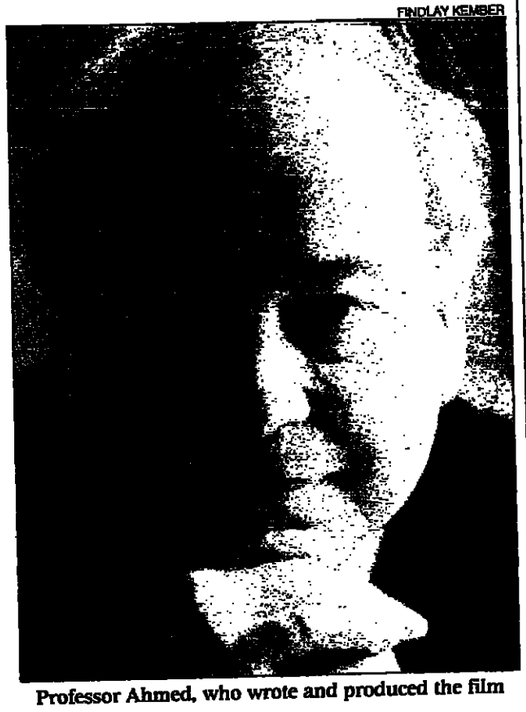
"This is film as political debate ... on the nature of Islam and how Muslims are to see themselves in the late 20th century."

Andrew Roberts, the author of *Eminent Churchillians*, is among historians who believe that Jinnah's role in the partition of India has long been misrepresented and said the script for Professor Ahmed's film was historically accurate.

"Insofar as Western filmgoers know anything about Jinnah at all, it is as the glowering, sulking villain in Sir Richard Attenborough's *Gandhi*. The film reduced Jinnah's arguments for a separate Muslim state to a simple jealousy of the Mahatma and of Nehru. It was as insulting to Pakistanis as it was historically inaccurate."

The soundtrack is being co-written by two British composers, Nigel Clarke, Professor of Composition at the London College of Music, and Michael Csanyi-Wills, who has just graduated from the Royal Academy of Music. They have written a score that blends eastern and western classical sounds. Although a release date in Britain remains dependent on it finding a distributor, the film has already been accepted for the London Film Festival.

FINDLAY KEMBER



Professor Ahmed, who wrote and produced the film



The costumes are lavish and the prices steep

Beijing echoes once again to a forbidden extravaganza

BY OWEN BROWN IN BEIJING

FORTY-NINE years after the "liberation" of China's imperial capital, the Forbidden City is again off-limits to the workers of Beijing as the curtain goes up on a £9 million production of *Turandot*.

In a country where the average annual income is barely £360, tickets for the extravagant staging of the Puccini opera in its original setting range from £90 to £750 — with a £150 surcharge for tonight's opening.

Even cut-price tickets for two special performances restricted to local Chinese ranged from £15 to £70, well beyond the reach of the average office worker.

The opera tells of a romance between an icy Chinese princess and a foreign prince and is set amid the lavish trappings of feudal China.

Despite the prices, tickets for the performances intended for the Chinese were sold out within a few days — a further sign that the economic reforms of the past two decades have helped to create a Chinese middle class prepared to part with their savings for an evening of Western indulgence.

Zubin Mehta, the opera's conductor, said it had been a struggle to obtain permission to stage the opera within the Forbidden City. He praised the outdoor venue, but said his biggest fear was the looming storm clouds threatening the open-air set last night as the lights were turned on for the final full dress rehearsal within the walls of Beijing's city within a city.

Built and extended during the Ming and Qing dynasties for the benefit of the Emperor, his concubines and the thousands of courtiers who clamoured for his favours, the former palace sits in the middle of modern Beijing, almost hidden behind the Tiananmen rostrum bearing the portait of Mao Tse-tung.

Promoters said overseas advertising had drawn opera-lovers from all over the world to see *Turandot* in its original setting. The socialites of Hong Kong had, in particular, been lured by the chance to see a Western opera with a Chinese flavour. But Mehta, who first had the idea for the production in 1994, while touring China with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, is more interested in widening the experience of music lovers in Beijing after decades of cultural isolation.

"I have always wanted to do *Turandot* in Peking," he said. "There are two performances dedicated to the Chinese and I look forward most to these."

Despite the opera's story, the costumes and the venue, there is little else Chinese about the production, which has Sharon Sweet, Barbara Hendricks and Kristjan Johannson in the lead roles.

But that has not discouraged its director, Zhang Yimou, a triple Oscar-nominated film director, most noted in the West for *Raise the Red Lantern*, another tale of love and treachery set in Imperial China.

"Although it is a Western opera, I am Chinese. Everything I think is Chinese and it will be a Chinese production," Zhang said.

GREG BAKER



Zubin Mehta accepting the applause of a Chinese audience after a dress rehearsal yesterday. Tickets for tonight's performance will be up to £900

Sparkle without substance soon loses its fizz

THEATRE

Full Gallop

Hampstead

May I confess to a dip of the spirits when I read in the Hampstead programme that the subject of Mark Hampton and Mary Louise Wilson's solo play was "one of New York's sparkling society figures"? The trouble with sparkling people, especially in New York, is that they come at you like fireworks: fizz, pop, and all that's left is darkness and a tang of sulphur.

The trouble with society figures is much the same. A narcissistic smile, a flash of cameras, a flurry of autograph hounds, and they are off to their salons, or wherever it is they do either nothing or very little.

All this is prejudiced of me, I guess; but there is surely an onus on anyone who impersonates a sparkling society figure for 100 minutes to prove that a) the sparkle is genuinely witty, and b) the figure is of importance. Splendid actress though she is, nice though it is to see her over here, Wilson failed to earn this Englishman's attention for Diana Vreeland, celebrated editor and "dynamic fashion authority" (the programme again).

We meet the lady in 1971 or thereabouts. She stalks the plush scarlet scenery of her Manhattan apartment, having just returned from a European holiday meant to lift her spirits after *Vogue* has sacked her. The *Post* has published a bitchy piece that accuses her of being a septuagenarian, and there is no credit to buy food for the Annenberg and the Gulbenkian she has whimsically asked to dinner.

But that doesn't greatly faze a woman who, as Wilson plays her, is heavily armoured. Rouge flows down from her jet-black hair on to her flour-white cheeks and then takes a side-turning to cover her ears. Her vowels, always brisk, rise to emphatically truculent caws on the last word of a sentence.

I am sure this portrait of female resilience is accurate — but does it matter? We hear a few, too few, eccentric *mots*: "Blue jeans are the greatest invention since the gondola." We learn a little about her rejecting mother, her glamorous husband, her life in London in the 1930s, her annoyingly effortless rise.

We are told that the Duke of Windsor's eyes are uniquely blue, that Hitler's moustache was "just wrong". There is a hint of alienated children and troubled grandchildren in the background; but hints are not enough to give emotional solidity to a sketch.

There you have it. We came to discover a woman of historical significance, or something substantial. And what did we get? A mildly sparkling society figure, that's what.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Water works in helping rare plant to survive

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A THREATENED flower unique to Britain has become the first plant to be championed under the Government's biodiversity action plan.

The early gentian, which has jewel-like purple flowers, is to be helped under a deal between conservation groups and Wessex Water. The action plan covers 172 rare and threatened British animals, plants and fungi, and tries to attract corporate sponsors for carefully costed conservation and recovery strategies.

Under the deal between Wessex Water and Plantlife, the botanical charity, and the Wildlife Trusts, which represents county wildlife groups, money is being made available to monitor and secure existing early gentian populations during the next two years. The water company is planning to extend its backing to cover the full five years of the action plan, which envisages restoring ten populations to former sites by 2004.

The species, *Gentianella anglica*, is confined to limestone and chalk grasslands from Cornwall to Lincolnshire. It has lost ground during this century, with the damage being linked to changes in agriculture, especially grazing, development and quarrying.

Early gentian, which grows up to 6in, has disappeared from Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, East and West Suffolk and West Sussex since 1990. It was known at 20 sites in Surrey, nine sites in Buckinghamshire and 12 sites in Berkshire before 1990, but the number of sites has fallen to two, two and three respectively. The main remaining strongholds are the Isle of Wight, Wiltshire and Dorset.

Ruth Davis, of Plantlife, said yesterday that the plant, which is related to popular garden varieties, was notoriously difficult to cultivate. She said it was possible that, in the wild, the early gentian's roots lived in a symbiotic relationship with soil bacteria that provided vital nutrients.

A spokeswoman for Wessex Water said yesterday that the company would pay a minimum of £10,000 in the first year and £10,000 in the second year towards the early gentian's survival.

Few other companies have joined the government scheme, despite the comparatively tiny sums involved and the huge public relations benefits of being a biodiversity champion. Those who have signed up are ICI (£120,000 over two years, to help the large blue and pearl bordered butterflies); Glaxo Wellcome (£10,000 over two years to support the medicinal leech); Tesco (£100,000 over two years for the skylark); Co-op Bank (£10,000 over two years for the bittern); Norsk Hydro (part-funding £150,000 rescue of the water vole); Mileta Tog (£5,000 for the stag beetle); and Water UK, along with Biffaward fund (£1 million over two years for the otter).



The early gentian: aided by Wessex Water

Sacking of lecturer in Times case is upheld

BY VICTORIA FLETCHER

A COLLEGE lecturer sacked after he told *The Times* he had set a degree examination based on a nine-year-old A-level question has lost his claim of unfair dismissal.

Jethro Cadbury, a lecturer in computer studies at South Thames College in Wandsworth, South London, said he felt an industrial tribunal had ignored his complaints about the way the college had handled his dismissal.

He said: "I am very disappointed. They have avoided addressing what academic freedom is. It seems they have just said we can't say anything to the press. It's like being in a society with a lost cause."

Mr Cadbury had added fuel to debates over falling standards in higher education in February last year when he told *The Times* he had set the 1988 A-level paper for his students and feared some would not pass even that.

He was sacked the following June and took his case to the industrial tribunal at Croydon, which said it was satisfied the college had followed correct procedure.

Sting changes tune to reveal love for Bach

FROM DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT, IN VENICE

IT MAY come as a surprise to his fans, but Sting has defected to the other side — the classical side. At least, for 5½ minutes.

The rock star has been recorded in a short film playing Bach on the guitar, accompanying an impromptu performance by the ballerina Alessandra Ferri.

This is said to be the first time that the former frontman of the Police has performed classical music in public. He was persuaded by Fabrizio Ferri, the Italian photographer-turned-director, who is married to the dancer and is a friend of Sting.

The rock star's passion for Bach has hitherto been largely private — he begins and ends every day by playing adaptations of Bach's solo works for cello. He performs the Cello Suite No 1 on the classical guitar in *Prelude*, which is competing in the short films section of the Venice Film Festival, where it was premiered yesterday.

Alessandra Ferri is a former star of the Royal Ballet who has become *prima ballerina assoluta* at La Scala in Milan and principal dancer of the American Ballet Theater of New York.

The idea for *Prelude*, shot in an abandoned factory in Milan, evolved after Sting was playing the guitar one day. The director, inspired, rang his wife's mobile, placing it next to the guitar, to allow her to listen to it. Sting suggested she dance to the music.

The Ferris befriended Sting, 46, when the star holidayed on the island of Pantelleria, off Sicily, which the director bought six years ago, restoring its ancient abandoned village to enable up to a dozen people to stay there.

Sting asked him initially to take pictures recording his stay, which were sold for Aids charities, to which Ferri has dedicated himself since the death of a friend who contracted the virus. Ferri also shot the cover of Sting's last album.

The singer, real name Gordon Sumner, is currently writing the music for a Disney film, *Kingdom of The Sun*.

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Battle looms as tribe revives hunt for whales

Giles Whittell on a showdown over ways of life

Neah Bay is a four-hour drive from Seattle, but it might as well be in a different century. Here, on the extreme northwest tip of the continental United States, dark cliffs plunge into the Pacific and stinking elephant seals barely tolerate the intrusion of a lonely lighthouse on their favourite rock.

The seals are safe, but the California grey whales that graze on kelp beneath the cliffs are not. From October 1, an Indian tribe that has inhabited Neah Bay for at least 4,000 years plans to go after the whales with ancient harpoons, modern rifles and the backing of the US Government.

It will be the first whale hunt here in 70 years, and as environmentalists assemble a flotilla to oppose it, a full-scale maritime showdown looms. On the Indians' side there will be one, possibly two, crews of carefully chosen men trained this summer in basic whaling techniques off the north coast of Alaska, paddling in dugout cedar canoes with the honour of their tribe at stake.

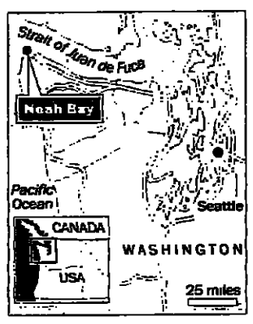
Arrayed against them will be a British-built submarine painted to resemble a killer whale, a helicopter, two large vessels and more than 20 smaller ones piloted by protesters who claim the hunt will undermine an international whaling ban in order to put whale meat on Tokyo's menus. In the middle, a US Coast Guard cutter will attempt to keep the warring sides apart.



ASAHEL CURTIS / WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



A Native American whaler on Neah Bay and below, cutting up whale meat, circa 1910





The confrontation has its roots in a century and a half of tortured dealings between Native Americans and Washington. The Makah Nation, which numbers 18,000, has attracted sympathy as well as anger by holding the Government to an 1855 treaty allowing it to continue whaling in return for its ancestral lands.

Elders proudly recall their grandfathers' tales of epic whale hunts in outrigger canoes at the mercy of the Northern Pacific. The Makah were the leading whalers of the American continent, they claim, famous for diving into the Gulf of Alaska's icy waters to sew whales' mouths shut and prevent them sinking on the long tow home. The tribe stopped whaling in the 1920s, when grey and humpback whales had been hunted to the brink of extinction. It now claims resuming traditional whaling will revive its ancient culture and end delinquency in Neah Bay.

Hunters attempt to harpoon a whale before it hits their boat. Whaling is to resume off Neah Bay next month

But two years ago a trial run went badly wrong. A baby grey whale caught and killed by fishing nets baffled locals when brought ashore at Neah Bay. Tribal leaders reportedly needed the help of a visiting Eskimo to butcher the animal, and much of its meat was later seen in the town dump.

At last year's International Whaling Commission meeting in Monaco the Makah argued that subsistence whaling would not hurt stocks of California greys, which have nearly doubled to 22,000 since 1986, and won an exemption from the worldwide whaling moratorium. Despite objections from most non-whaling nations, though not from Britain, the exemption allows the killing of up to four whales a year. "It was like winning the Superbowl," a tribal leader said in Monaco.

In a "humane" variation on traditional techniques, the Makah plan to station two men at the prow of each canoe, one with an old-fashioned harpoon on the end of a rope, the other with a specially built .50-calibre rifle to shorten the beast's suffering. In tests on a beached whale, one of the rifle's giant bullets left an 8in crater in the skull.

But Paul Watson, captain of the environmental ship *Sea Shepherd III*, said: "We hope to keep all grey whales at least 30 miles from the whaling boats." He has accused Japan of secretly backing the Makah to set a precedent for its own "cultural" whaling.

"This is the loophole the Japanese and Norwegians will use to destroy the international whaling moratorium," he said. But the tribal whalers are ready to play dirty, too, if necessary. "If [Watson] rams our boats," one said, "then we'll ram his."

Leading article, page 19

Keiko begins his journey back to life in the wild

FROM REUTERS IN NEWPORT, OREGON

KEIKO, the most famous killer whale, begins a new chapter next week when he is flown back to his native Iceland.

The tourism-dependent town that was his home for the last two-and-half years will be left with a big empty tank and the question: "Is there life after Keiko?"

For the moment, residents have little time to ponder the answer since swarms of families from all over North America are descending on the Oregon Coast Aquarium to say goodbye to Keiko.

But at least a few residents think Newport could stand a breather from the mobs swarming their town since 1986 when Keiko was moved here after the surprise success of the first *Free Willy* film. It drew attention to the miserable condition of the real-life whale, then in a cramped, overheated tank at a Mexico City amusement park.

Diane Hammond, of the Free Willy Keiko Foundation, said moving the mammal back to Iceland is the next logical step in his gradual reintroduction to the wild after 19 years in captivity. The foundation was established by Warner Bros and a campaign of children around the world. Its aim is to rehabilitate the whale and, if possible, set him free in the waters where he was captured in 1979 aged one or two.



A playful Keiko in his tank in Oregon

Keiko has put on about 2,000lb since he arrived in Oregon, greatly improved his muscle tone and cardiovascular condition and relearnt how to catch and eat live fish, although he is still served frozen squid occasionally.

On Wednesday, Keiko will be loaded onto an US Air Force cargo jet for a non-stop flight to an airstrip near his new bay pen in Iceland's Westman Islands. There he will be reacquainted with the smells, sounds and prey of his native waters with an eye toward his eventual release.

The Newport aquarium, meanwhile, plans to partition Keiko's two-million-gallon tank into near-shore and deep ocean habitats. An underwater tunnel would take visitors past a reef, a shipwreck, sharks, tuna and sunfish.

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Royalty says hello to age of informality

Buckingham Palace is looking at ways to modernise the endearingly stuffy Court Circular, says Alan Hamilton

In its drive to give the Queen a more customer-friendly image, Buckingham Palace has turned its cautiously reformist attention to one of the enduring bastions of royal formality. It can be found most days elsewhere in this newspaper.

The Court Circular is an oddity, possibly even an anachronism. It is a corner of the printed page where the otherwise fluid English language reverts to an 18th-century stiffness with a touch of baroque verbosity.

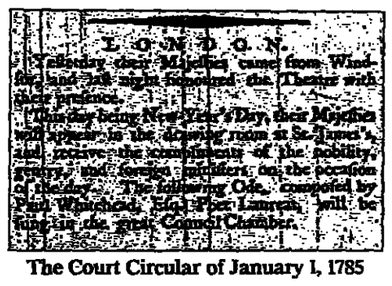
In the week that the Palace's new image-massager, Simon Lewis, takes up his post, officials are wondering if it is not time to bring the Court Circular up to date. Anyone who imagines that a press fed by fanciful and often inaccurate speculation about the daily doings of the Royal Family is a modern phenomenon has no sense of history. George III became so irritated by scurrilous royal reporting that, in 1803, he appointed the first Court Newsman to distribute an approved daily account of events at court, an early example of Palace spin-doctoring and news management.

The Times has been reporting court activities since its foundation in 1785 — accurately, of course. Other titles among the active late 18th-century penny press were less fastidious in their coverage.

The Court Circular in its present form dates from May 2, 1829, since when it has become mercifully shorter, although it retains a strong flavour of strangely formulaic language. There has, however, been some simplification. Years ago, according to the circular, the Queen was always "graciously pleased" to receive someone in audience; now she simply meets them. But you still do not have an audience *with* Her Majesty: you have it *of* her, or are *received in audience*, depending on your status.

The circular is, in fact, a unique record of the Queen's formal working life, published nowadays in *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Scotsman*. It appeared for a spell in *The Independent*, but in a type size better suited to the footnotes of a pocket Bible.

Among the events it chronicles, seven days a week, are investitures; the comings and goings of plenipotentiaries to


LONDON.
Yesterday their Majesties came from Windsor and this night honoured the Theatre with their presence.
This day being New Year's Day, their Majesties will appear in the drawing room at St. James's, and receive the compliments of the nobility, gentry, and foreign ministers on the occasion of the day. The following Ode, composed by Paul Whitehead, Esq. Poet Laureate, will be sung in the great Council Chamber.

The Court Circular of January 1, 1785

present their letters of credence and recall; visits by the Queen and by members of the other Royal Households, from the Prince of Wales to Princess Alexandra; and the lunches, dinners, state visits and other paraphernalia of formal monarchical life.

There is, surprisingly, no other complete daily record of what the Royal Family gets up to. Although collated from the various royal residences by the most up-to-date computer system, the version published in *The Times* is daily cut out and pasted into a book at the Palace, eventually to find its way to the Royal Archives at Windsor.

Once it was compiled by the Master of the Household's department; now a member of the staff of the Palace press office well-schooled in the precise phraseology compiles the circular every day, shows it to the Queen for her approval and faxes it to the three newspapers. "It is very formulaic, but some people probably quite like it. Those who read it find it comforting," a Palace spokesman said.

But what, if anything, to do with it? Palace officials have been heard to complain that there is no adequate chronicle of Royal Family life between the Court Circular and *Hello!* magazine and that the time may be right for something more appealing and accessible. They are as yet undecided what course to take. "An advantage of the circular is that it shows the great depth and breadth of the Queen's official duties. It also records the activities of the less prominent members of the Royal Family, whose work goes largely unreported in the media," the spokesman said. One avenue being actively explored is a news magazine on the Palace's hugely popular Internet website. The pages would probably be compiled by an outside news organisation, subject to Palace vetting. Although there is this week a hint of weariness of royal news at home, the appetite abroad is apparently inexhaustible. And abroad does not, on the whole, see the Court Circular.

The magazine is likely to be rather more news-driven than the rather stony-faced circular. Where the circular would baldly state that Her Majesty the Queen had held an investiture, the magazine might mention that, among those knighted was, to take a recent example, Elton John.

She would, of course, have been as graciously pleased as ever to meet him.

Court Circular, page 20



How the Court Circular might look in *Hello!* magazine and, below, as it appears in *The Times*

. . . and goodbye to all this?

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

September 1: The Duke of York, Patron the Fire Service Sports and Athletics Association, later opened the Fire Services European Volleyball Championships at Huddersfield Sports Centre.

September 2: The Duke of York, Admiral of the Sea Cadets Corps, this evening presented the prizes at the Sea Cadet Association Sailing Regatta, Port Solent, Portsmouth Harbour, and was received by Commander Colin Balfour RN (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire).

KENSINGTON PALACE

September 3: The Duke of Gloucester this morning opened the Society of Model and Experimental Engineers (SMEE) centenary exhibition at Brunel University, Uxbridge.

Quaint Link to an Era of Luncheons and Capital Letters

By Patrick Wheare
Court and Social Editor

THE Court Circular has a quaint charm that links the Royal Family to its past. It is a genuine piece of history. It is factual, precise, even grammatical. *Spin-doctors* meddle with it at their peril. It is perfectly suited to take the top spot on this *newspaper's Court Page*, which is itself deliberately pitched slightly behind the rest of *The Times* in both its style and content.

But to get a real flavour of the Royal Family and a reminder that they are not quite like the rest of us, you need to look back at Court Circulars of at least ten years ago, when Ambassadors were still Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Kissed Hands upon their Appointment, when their wives had the Honour of being received by The Queen, when Lunches were Luncheons and Travel was in the Royal Train or an Aircraft of The Queen's Flight, when Capital Letters counted, and *Royal Language was truly Regal.*

A quiet, unnoticed, Modernisation of the Circular a few years ago cleared out those phrases but, unsurprisingly, did not bring readers swarming to scan it, or find them remarking on the train how much improved it was now that Retainers in Attendance were no longer listed. At least Gold Stick in Waiting and the Clerk to the Closet survived those changes.

The Circular is now sent by fax. We no longer have to send a motorcyclist to ask for it politely at a side door of Buckingham Palace.

Years ago the advertising cliché was USP — the Unique Selling Point that gave a product its special pulling power. The dear old Court Circular is one of the Royal Family's few Unique Selling Points. There is nothing like it.

Better therefore to leave it alone and improve those parts of the Royal Family's activities that do need attention: besides, if you want to know how busy the Royal Family is today, the Royal Engagements on the same page as the Court Circular will tell you. The Circular has always been an anachronism: a repetition of what was already known. Modernised and made user-friendly, it would be a waste of space.

In 1886 the Court Newsman was paid £45 a year by the Lord Chamberlain, on behalf of the monarch, to circulate the Circular to various newspapers. George III had invented the job some years earlier because he was fed up with newspapers misreporting the family's activities. Nothing changes.

For the modern equivalent of £45 I'd be delighted to do the job. But only if it were done with All the Old Style.

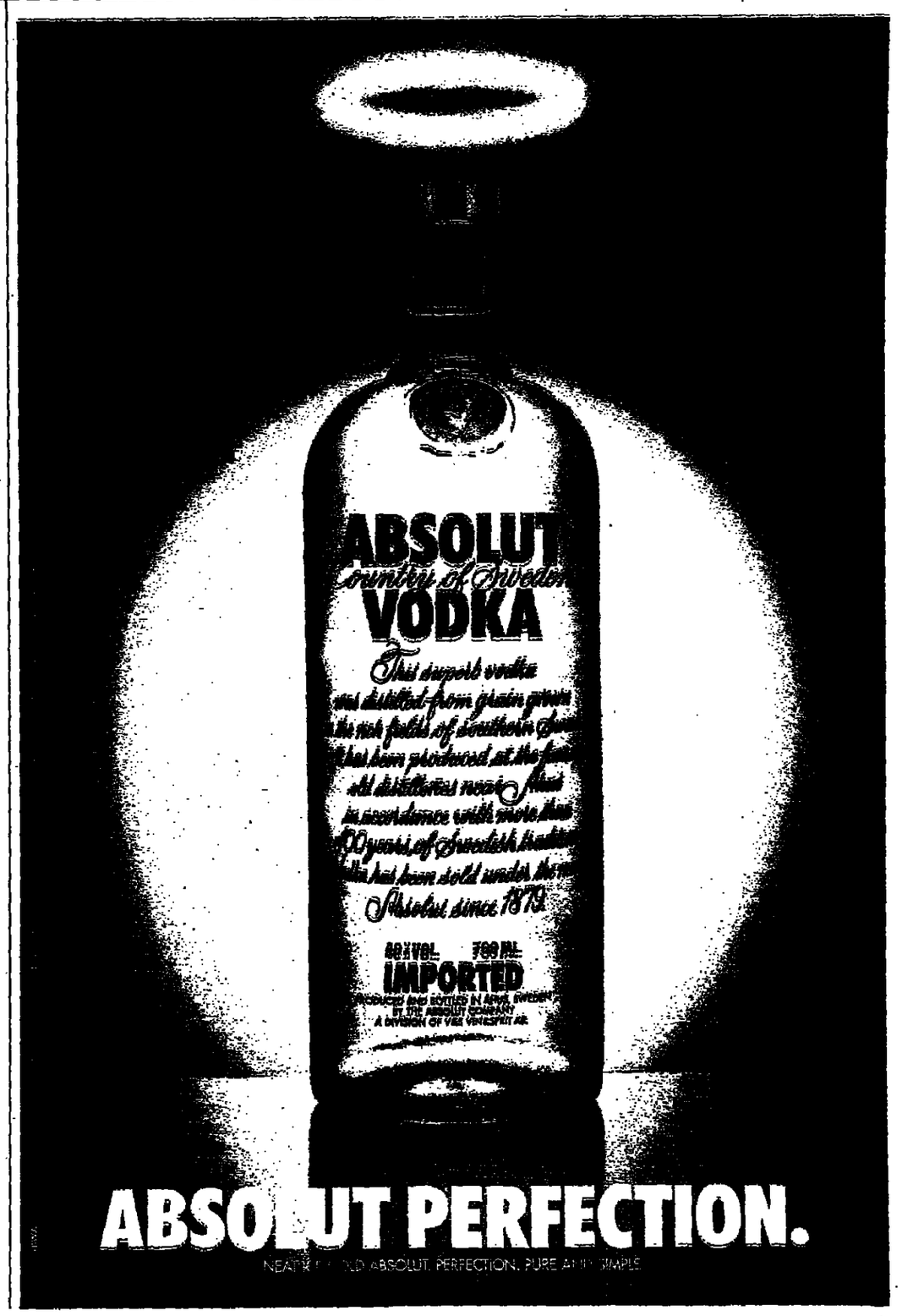
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One Nation star divides Australians

PATRICK HAMILTON / REUTERS



Pauline Hanson, who raised a storm with a warning that her country has been "swamped by Asians", has struck a chord with rural voters

Fear of a divorcee holding the key to power is rising, David Watts in Sydney reports

CABBIES have been banned from talking about her for fear of causing road rage, but the rest of Australia can talk of little else but the chip-shop owner turned superstar politician: Pauline Hanson.

With polls showing that she will probably hold the balance of power in next month's elections, she is likely to be in a position to shift Australia into political territory unexplored since the 1950s.

Though many Australians are aghast at some of the One Nation party's racist rhetoric, there is more than a sneaking admiration at her attempts to break the political logjam with radical solutions to old political problems.

For many rural voters, she strikes a chord, offering the hope of help to redress the balance between the urban areas and the increasingly marginalised farmers who have seen the prices of their products and the level of local services decline headlong over the past decade.

Whether this monosyllabic redhead from rural Queensland, the tropical "Deep North" which has always produced the country's most exotic political fauna, is the right inspiration for the new Australian millennium is open to question. Her sudden rise, on the strength of a letter to a local newspaper, is a clear response to the national frustration with dull political leadership and loss of traditional values.

It has also made many Australians wonder whether theirs is the tolerant, multicultural society they had always imagined. Immigrants — from Sydney's Chinese taxi drivers to Asian academics at Queensland's respected universities — are facing previously unimagined instances of discrimination.

Mrs Hanson's now infamous letter to the *Queensland News* questioned the Aboriginal's right to what she saw as a disproportionate amount of welfare assistance. That earned her expulsion from the conservative Liberal Party. Election to the Federal Parliament as an independent followed. There, in her maiden speech, she spoke of an Australia "swamped by Asians". She issued a warning that the country will end up with Asian-majority cities that bear little or no relation to the "real Australia".

There is no doubt they love her in her Anglo-Saxon-dominated Ipswich constituency. But she has not been seen recently in either Melbourne or Sydney, where there are large immigrant populations, which meant police had to be called out to protect her from hostile crowds.

For so prominent a figure, Mrs Hanson is curiously inaccessible. Her local candidate for the Sydney suburb of Manly has an unlisted telephone number, and if you should manage to get through to the answering machine on her mobile phone you will be greeted by the sounds of *Land of Hope and Glory* to the accompaniment of Churchillian exhortations.

Mrs Hanson has given no interviews except for the benefit of television, perhaps because despite all her claims to admire family values her own life appears almost devoid of them.

She has been twice divorced and both of her former husbands now say they wish they had never met her. Her first husband will not use his real name in interviews because he does not want to be associated with her.

Her second husband, Mark Hanson, seems intent on putting the public straight about her. In an interview with an Australian magazine, he said: "She's embarrassed the Hanson name and the goodwill of the Hanson family. I don't think she knows what love is. She doesn't have a heart that can love. I wonder sometimes what I ever saw in her."

Mrs Hanson was born 44 years ago to a family of English and Irish immigrants. She left school at 15 and married her first husband two years later when she was pregnant with her first son. They separated when a second child was on the way.

She then took a job as a barmaid on the Queensland Gold Coast where she met Mark Hanson who, he says, married her in 1980 when she was again pregnant because he believed in old-fashioned values. His second child and a bitter divorce followed. Mrs Hanson then moved from Brisbane to Ipswich, where she bought the fish and chips shop which has become the focal point of one of the world's more bizarre careers.

A Queensland One Nation MP, Charles Rappolt, who sits for Cairns, seems to have equally unsettled domestic arrangements. At a press conference this week he explained that his relationship with his electoral secretary, Sandra Higgins, was purely professional. One Nation MPs are prohibited from employing their spouses. The party has suffered its first high-level defection with a former Queensland employee saying *One Nation was little more* than a rabble, racked by infighting and composed of extremists expelled from other parties.

The defector, Debbie Beaven, told *The Australian:* "The people who are running it [One Nation] are all the dregs that have been kicked out by all the other parties. God help Australia if One Nation holds the balance of power after the election."

Korean 'songs of praise' fall flat with US



Kim Jong Il: belated satellite story

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

SURELY some mistake, said North Korea yesterday, five days after it was condemned by officials in Washington and Tokyo for launching a ballistic missile test over Japan. That was no missile, that was our first satellite, North Korea said.

The Pentagon dismissed the claim. An official said: "We still maintain it was a missile." Asked how he could be sure, he said wryly: "We have the resources to tell the difference. And we monitor the Korean peninsula very closely."

Undeterred, the official North Korean news agency went into raptures about the satellite, which it said would contribute to promoting scientific research for the peaceful uses of outer space.

Even now, the satellite was transmitting immortal revolutionary hymns, including *Song of General Kim Il Sung*, North Korea's late "Great Leader", and his son's *Song of General Kim Jong Il*, the ruling "Dear Leader".

True, the news agency admitted, the satellite rocket's second stage did whizz over Japan's main island of Honshu and splashed down in the Pacific.

It was this intrusion that prompted Fukushiro Nukaga, the Japanese Defence Minister, to say yesterday that Tokyo had the right to strike back if attacked by missiles.

Concern that a second, similar launch was being prepared put Japan on military alert yesterday, with extra aircraft and ships monitoring the skies and sea lanes. Japan agreed to unprecedented military exercises with South Korea, where coastal forces went on alert.

In addition, a US Navy battle group, led by the aircraft carrier *USS Kitty Hawk*, sailed from Japan for "local operations". The Pentagon also dispatched B2 and B52 bombers to the Pacific island of Guam, well within striking distance of North Korea, for what were called training exercises.

The belated satellite story prompted suspicions in Washington that North Korea was trying to make amends for testing its new medium-range missile just as negotiations on Western aid were at a critical stage.

Airport's flawed security exposed by police 'bomb'

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

ALARM bells are ringing in Paris over lax security at the city's Orly airport after a police officer smuggled a fake bomb into the departure lounge.

In an operation designed to test Orly's defences against terrorism, the policeman passed through several checks, including an X-ray machine, with the "bomb" hidden inside a personal stereo in his hand luggage. A real device of a similar size would have been powerful enough to have blown up the plane.

Sifa, the private company responsible for security at Orly and at Charles de Gaulle, the city's other main airport, has already received a warning following the World Cup when agents failed to detect weapons, including a pistol and a grenade.

Serious undermanning means that security staff dealing with flights to and from Algeria, Africa or Corsica are unable to search the one in four bags required under France's anti-terrorist arrangements.

"When we are completely overwhelmed, it is the secretary who comes over to give us a hand," an employee told *Le Parisien*.

Agents complain that they are "despised, understaffed, badly trained and given little encouragement". Instead of spending the recommended maximum of 20 minutes checking carry-on luggage, they must often stay in front of X-ray screens for up to two hours, leading to poor concentration.

"The company's main objective is to get the passengers into the departure lounges as quickly as possible to avoid penalties if planes are delayed because of security procedures," said an employee.

As the number of police officers at Orly Ouest was reduced from 35 to ten on Monday, Aéroports de Paris (ADP), the company which runs both airports, was accused of failing to provide adequate protection in a bid to cut costs.

Sifa, an affiliate of ADP, was awarded the security contract because of its competitive prices after an open bid in 1997.

Lawyers boycott mass terror trial

Evry, France: Defence lawyers yesterday called again for the suspension of France's biggest Islamic terrorist trial, boycotted by lawyers and most of the 138 defendants for the fourth day. The accused, suspected of aiding armed Muslim fundamentalists in Algeria, face ten years' jail. *(AFP)*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rwandan jailed for genocide

Johannesburg: The United Nations tribunal on Rwanda sentenced the country's former Prime Minister, Jean Kambanda, to the maximum penalty of life imprisonment yesterday for genocide and crimes against humanity (Inigo Gilmore writes). The Rwandan Government called for Kambanda to be imprisoned in his homeland.

The sentence by the UN court based in Arusha, Tanzania, was for his role in the 1994 slaughter of up to one million Tutsis and Hutu moderates.

Minister 'better'

Paris: Jean-Pierre Chevènement, 59, the French Interior Minister who fell into a coma after suffering a heart attack during gall bladder surgery, has begun a slow recovery, officials said. *(Reuters)*

Captive set free

Rome: Kidnappers released Alessandra Sgarella, 40, a Milanese businesswoman held for nine months, in the southern region of Calabria. Her husband said no ransom had been paid. *(Reuters)*

Basque alias

Madrid: Herri Batasuna, the political arm of Eta, the Basque separatist group, has changed its name to Euskal Herritarrok (Basque Citizens) to avoid being barred from regional elections. *(AFP)*

Desert crash

Washington: Two US Air Force helicopters, each carrying six people, crashed in the Nevada desert during a night training exercise, the Nellis Air Force Base, near Las Vegas, said. *(Reuters)*

Anger over meat

Baghdad: Iraq has ordered jail terms of up to ten years for butchers selling dog or donkey meat in place of mutton. A 2 lb piece of sheep meat costs 3,000 dinars (£1.20), half the monthly wage of a bureaucrat. *(AP)*

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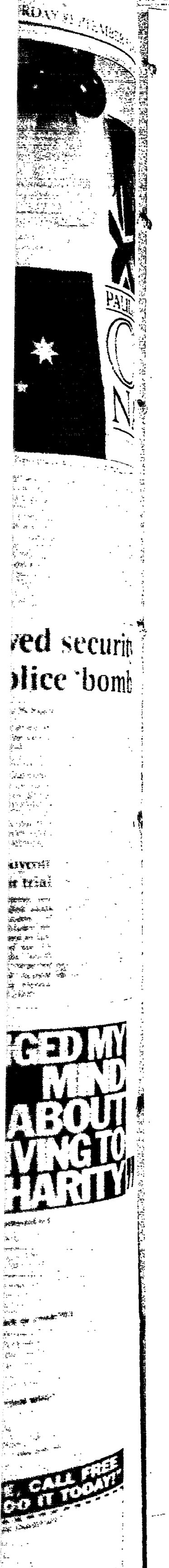
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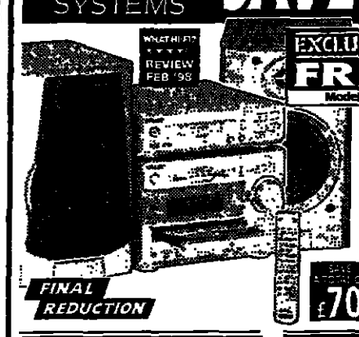
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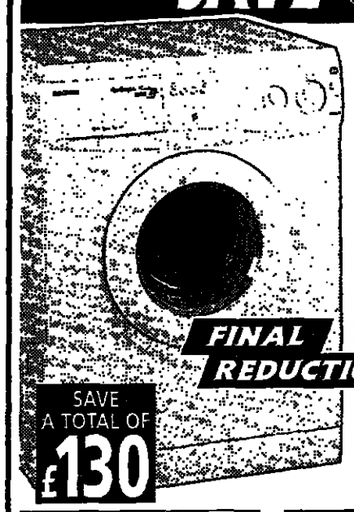


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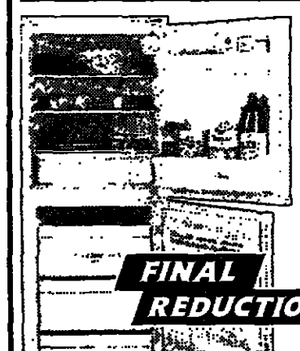
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Immune to the old Saturday Night Fever



JAMES BONE'S NEW YORK

AS MUST be abundantly clear, reports of the "death of disco" were greatly exaggerated. That old Saturday Night Fever is "staying alive", and the Seventies are back big in two films. *The Last Days of Disco* and *Studio 54*.

One man is remaining aloof from the retro disco craze, however, even as it celebrates his legendary New York *boîte*. He is Ian Schrager, co-founder of Studio 54.

While others rave about the decadent days at "54" when Mick and Bianca and Liz and Calvin and Andy rubbed shoulders on the dance floor, Mr Schrager has quietly reincarnated himself as New York's biggest private hotelier. He is *living proof of the maxim* that "hotels are the nightclubs of the Nineties". For fans of the glitter balls and garish polyester gear of the disco era, it will come as a shock to discover that he is now a minimalist to boot. The ice-cool Brooklynite virtually invented the "boutique hotel" when he transformed a fleabag establishment in Manhattan into the modish Morgans in 1984. He has since opened a string of "haute" hotels, from the Delano on Miami Beach and the Mondrian in Los Angeles to the Paramount and Royalton in New York, all designed by the minimalist Philippe Starck.



Rubell, left, and Schrager in Studio 54 in the heady days of disco of the 1970s

In March, the one-time property lawyer joined forces with a Wall Street investment firm to finance his plans to open five new hotels a year, and quickly gazumped Donald Trump for the luxurious St Moritz on Central Park South.

Mr Trump, whose own taste borders on the baroque, retaliated with a curt dismissal of Mr Schrager's style: "He puts linoleum in the bathrooms and gets people to pay a high price." Mr Schrager sent the tycoon a roll of lino.

Mr Schrager plans to invade London with his high-style hotels. Next summer he will open the 204-room St Martin's Lane in Covent Garden, modelled on his moderately priced New York Paramount, and the Sanderson in Soho, a Euro-version of the media-friendly Royalton. He has also contracted to buy the 1,000-room St Giles Circus off Tottenham Court Road.

Neither *Last Days of Disco*, just released in Britain, nor *Studio 54*, due to open in December, depict Mr Schrager directly — no doubt due to the legal problems of portraying a living person. But *Last Days of Disco* is set against the famous raid by taxmen on Mr Schrager's club, and *54* features his erstwhile partner Steve Rubell, who died of hepatitis in 1991.

Both films have disappointed habitués of the original 54. Whit Stillman, who has directed such romantic comedies as *Metropolitan* (1990) and *Barcelona* (1994), modelled *Last Days of Disco* on his first-hand experience of life behind the velvet cord. Mr Stillman first went to the club in 1979, shortly before its demise, and found that most party-goers were not celebrities at all but yuppies from the city's law firms and advertising agencies.

His film follows two young women from publishing, Kate Beckinsale and Chloe Sevigny, who go out on the town with two young consorts they knew at Harvard. After his disco experience Mr Stillman soon decided to stay home in the evenings to write short stories and now says that 54 became legendary simply because people assume that all the anecdotes from its three-year reign happened in a single night.

Studio 54 adopts a similar approach by tracking a one-time petrol station attendant in New Jersey as he storms the New York club scene. Soon the young club kid has scored "the best job in the world" as a bar tender at 54 and is trawling around Manhattan with 54 vanity licence plates. The *Los Angeles Times* wrote: "If the real 54 was this lacking in excitement and pizzazz, it's a wonder all its patrons didn't fall asleep once they'd gotten inside the door."

Mr Schrager spent 13 months in jail for stashing untaxed cash in the ceiling of 54 and is loath to reminisce about that time. Now 52, he is married to Rita Narona, a Cuban-American who once danced with the New York City Ballet.

The couple live in a $9 million (£5.3 million) flat near Madonna on New York's Central Park West, and have two daughters, aged four years and eight months. Finally, the style-meister has reached the stage of life when he finds himself changing nappies.

Invited to the premiere of the big-screen *Studio 54* in Los Angeles, the former club king declined to attend. "I have bittersweet memories about it," he said.

"This tremendous amount of attention focused on that right now I find very amusing. I did not participate or cooperate with anybody having to do with it because it does not bring anything good to my life. That was like high school. I am on to something else."



CARL GLASSMAN

Ian Schrager, who believes hotels are the nightclubs of the Nineties, shows off the lobby of the Paramount, one of the hotels he owns

Bargain basement Bill

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S waning fortunes can be measured in the amount of money that Democrats are asking for access to their beleaguered leader.

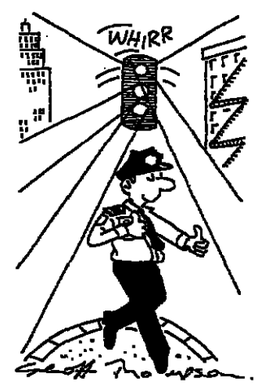
On his recent visit to New York, contributors were milked for $25,000 (£15,000) to attend an intimate dinner for a hundred with the President. It sounds like quite a packet, but it is actually a bargain. By comparison, the sponsors of Nelson Mandela's forthcoming visit to New York are seeking the same amount for a banquet with South Africa's President.

"Clinton should be $100,000 a couple," according to one substantial benefactor to the beleaguered American President.



A 33-stone man known affectionately as "Fishbone" has won a six-year legal battle to qualify as a train driver on the New York subway. Dwayne Richardson, 31, stands 6ft 3in tall and 5ft 6in wide. The transport authority had declared him "morbidly obese" after he lasted less than three minutes on a treadmill. But this week, he finished school and will soon be delivering commuters to New York's 468 underground stations — provided he can get through the door into the driver's compartment.

Mr Richardson got a standing ovation from 200 people as he graduated for his new job. "I just want to be the best train operator I can be," he said as his mother choked back tears. "Now that I'm over the hump, I've got to lose the weight so I can be there for my family."



Brooklyn is bewitched by the "Calypso Cop". Every morning Roland Joseph, a diminutive traffic policeman, is on duty at a terribly busy junction on Flatbush Avenue and spends his four-hour shift entrancing the rush-hour traffic by jiggling his body to a soundtrack inside his head. "Diggidit, diggidit", "bookity, bookity, bookity" and "badabada-badabada-bing", he whoops to the passing road warriors. A father of eight by five women, he even gets propositioned by passing women. Trinidad-born Officer Joseph says he has calypso in his genes.

I am wary of stepping into my local post office. As anyone who has ever lived in America knows, private business operates with impressive efficiency but state-run enterprises are invariably a bureaucratic mess. With a series of spree killings at work in recent years, frustrated post office employees have earned a reputation for "going postal" — a synonym for going mad. I am particularly concerned about one counter clerk at my SoHo branch who has started welcoming every customer with the words: "Good morning — hopefully."

Much hay was made this week of *The New Yorker's* report that Monica Lewinsky had been offered a $6 million (£3.59 million) book deal by an "undisclosed publisher" — almost as much as the record $6.5 million paid to General Colin Powell.

Less noticed, however, was the defection of a celebrity author from the rival camp of Lucianne Goldberg, the New York literary agent who urged Linda Tripp to tape Miss Lewinsky.

Mark Fuhrman, the Los Angeles cop whose reported racist comments derailed the O.J. Simpson trial, bolted from Mrs Goldberg's stable because she was apparently too busy trying to topple President Clinton. Mrs Goldberg had been representing Mr Fuhrman's *Murder in Greenwich*, a re-examination of an old high-society murder case.

"Every show that Mark was booked on, the first thing they did was ask him, 'Do you know Monica Lewinsky'," the agent told *New York* magazine. "It made him crazy, and I don't blame him."

Loggers-on welcome at the virtual forest

ONE of the great perils of New York's autumn, or fall as the Americans prefer to call it, is mistiming your trip to see the "foliage". Every year the forests of the Eastern Seaboard turn into a glorious bonfire of gold, russet and scarlet leaves of an intensity seldom seen in Britain. The "foliage" spreads northwards from Washington to the Canadian border and beyond, but stays in its full splendour at any particular place for only a matter of days. Tourists often feel cheated when they journey to a forest only to find the leaves withered. No longer. Next week Pennsylvania is introducing a network of six treetop "web-cams" (www.state.pa.us) that will broadcast its forests over the Internet. The goal is to help tourists to time their trip, but forest rangers are grumbling that some "couch potatoes" may just stay at home and watch fall on their computers.

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New life blossoms as Yellowstone rises from ashes

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN YELLOWSTONE

IT WAS, without question, the most expensive smoke in history. On July 22, 1988, a man cutting wood just yards from Yellowstone's western boundary paused for a break and threw a burning cigarette-end into the dry grass at his feet. The fire he started blackened half a million acres over the next three months and was still burning long after the first snows of winter.

Ten years after its worst fire storm in 300 years, swaths of America's most treasured wilderness are still strange arboreal cemeteries; forests of naked grey tree trunks rising from prairie grass and sagebrush. But, in the meantime, one natural wonder has begottenanother. Tens of millions of seedlings have sprouted from the ash and dozens of once rare species are now thriving. Meanwhile, humans are flocking to the park in record numbers — choking its roads with crawling lines of rented cars and Dormobiles.

The man-made fire in Yellowstone's west side joined three major natural blazes and nearly 250 smaller ones to create an inferno for the ages. The last time high winds and intense drought combined with forest and undergrowth as dense as that of 1988 was in 1703, scientists believe.

In all, 40 per cent of the park was torched. The US Government spent $1.5 million a day supporting the forlorn efforts of 25,000 firefighters, including entire army battalions. Images of giant flames leaping over Old Faithful and chasing startled animals dominated the news for weeks. Afterwards Yellowstone devotees mourned "the death of an old friend".

Park officials now insist the grieving was premature. Thanks to the regenerative powers of ash and dead wood, "the 1988 fires were pretty much a guarantee that Yellowstone for the next 300 years will look very like the Yellowstone of the last 300 years", said John Varley, one of the park's senior biologists.

Some species did suffer, among them the magnificent moose, which lost much of the deep forest in which it winters and has halved in number in the park over the decade. But mountain bluebirds, ground squirrels, three-toed woodpeckers, foxes, elks, coyotes and the humble termite have all thrived — in many cases on each other.

Yellowstone's new beginning was signalled most dramatically by carpets of pink firewood that appeared suddenly in 1989 having been considered rare until then. Likewise the mountain hollyhock. "I had not seen a single one in 15 years, but the spring after the fires there were acres of them," Mr Varley said.

Forests of slow-growing lodgepole pine — the trees that burned by the million, often exploding like giant Roman candles — are returning in saplings that are now up to 8ft high but will take at least 150 years to mature, another park biologist said.

Tourists seem undeterred. Since the fires the total number of visitors has risen by nearly a third to about three million a year.

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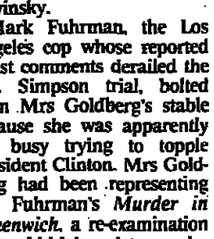
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Jews revisit Germany's virtual past

Synagogues Nazis destroyed live again, writes **Roger Boyes**



Frankfurt's Börneplatz synagogue, burnt in 1938, was restored in cyberspace after studies a famous 1919 picture by painter Max Beckmann

The brown-shirted stormtroopers were spraying spirit on the wooden pews of a Frankfurt synagogue when Franz Horenczyk came to pick up his prayer book. He knew what was about to happen — an arson attack on the synagogue he had visited since childhood — and he fled.

"It did not burst into flames that day, they had problems setting it alight," said Mr Horenczyk, who now lives in Israel. "But they came back later and blew it up with explosives." In those frantic days of November 1938 — beginning on the ninth, the so-called *Kristallnacht* — more than 1,000 synagogues and other smaller places of worship were wiped from the face of German cities.

After the Second World War, Jews slowly returned to Germany and a few synagogues were built anew. Then, in 1994, neo-Nazis placed firebombs in a Lübeck synagogue. Unpleasant memories were stirred. The Far Right seemed to be on the march again.

> "Jews trying to recover their roots can tour the synagogue and see where their grandparents sat"

"That was when we got the idea of creating virtual synagogues, restoring the memory of Jewish life in Germany by using cyberspace," said Marc Grellert, an architecture student at the technical university in Darmstadt. He took the project to his professor, Manfred Koob, who became its intellectual patron.

So far the 30-strong team has re-created three Frankfurt synagogues and the plan — to mark the 60th anniversary of the "Night of Broken Glass" — is to take on another 15. The results have been remarkable. Franz Horenczyk's synagogue in the Friedberger Anlage — once a huge place accommodating more than 1,000 male worshippers, 600 women and 60 choristers — was converted by the Nazis into an air-raid bunker. Nowadays only a plaque reminds passers-by that this was once the biggest temple in the Frankfurt area.

Now visitors — mainly, but not exclusively, Jews trying to recover roots which seem to have been burnt away by the Holocaust — can tour the building and see where their grandparents sat. It is all there: the separate entrances for men and women, the view from the women's gallery, the windows well above eye level, so as not to distract people from their prayer. It is all there, but only on computer, a digital memory.

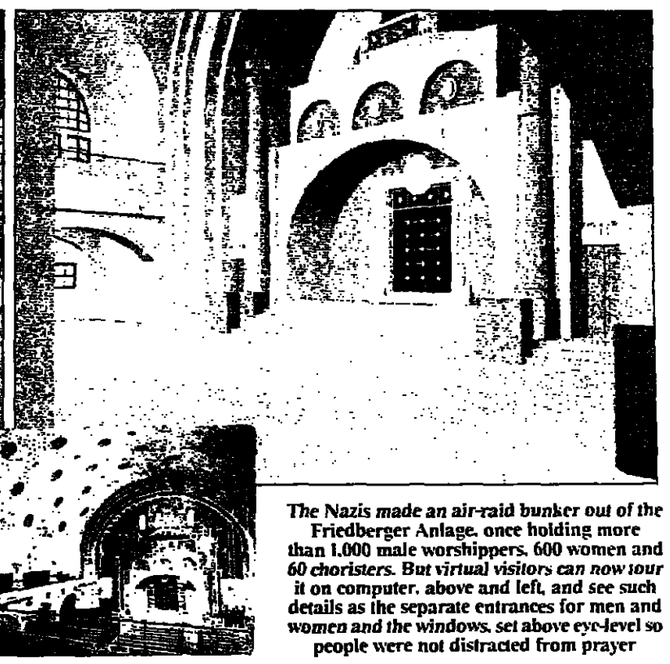
The quality is high, matching that of sophisticated Japanese animated film-makers or computer game designers, and the viewer is taken slowly through the temple as if he were on a guided tour. Sometimes the camera glances upwards to take in an arch, or it leads the visitor through doors, along rows of pews as if the worshipper is searching for a friend.

The voice of the cantor, sneezing children, the rustle of clothing: it is easy to populate these cyberspace synagogues. Herr Grellert recently showed his reconstructions to Jews living in Frankfurt. "They were moved, the memories came flooding back."

The search for detail spreads wide, in Europe, Israel, the United States. Drawings, photographs, even — in the case of the synagogue on Börneplatz — a famous 1919 painting by Max Beckmann — all this helped to provide the raw data.

"This digital realisation is vital, because it restores something which should never have disappeared from the German urban landscape," says Salomon Korn, a German Jewish community leader, "and it shows something important about the history of the Jews — that their culture was blossoming at the very moment it was cut down." Herr Grellert calculates that the team needs about £12,000 to make a computer reconstruction of each synagogue. The Bonn Government has come up with a small grant of about £30,000 and at least one city, Nuremberg, has agreed to subsidise the work on its own destroyed synagogue.





The Nazis made an air-raid bunker out of the Friedberger Anlage, once holding more than 1,000 male worshippers, 600 women and 60 choristers. But virtual visitors can now tour it on computer, above and left, and see such details as the separate entrances for men and women and the windows, set above eye-level so people were not distracted from prayer

Naturally the university is looking for sponsors, but Herr Grellert stresses: "We are not looking for money from the victims, from the Jewish community." This was a German responsibility, a moral debt that should be repaid by people like himself, a 27-year-old researcher.

The team does need one Jewish contribution: the advice of elderly Jews with good memories or old photographs. He appealed to them to get in touch through the project's Internet site (www.cad.architektur.tu-Darmstadt.de). The next synagogues to get computer treatment are in Berlin, Cologne, Dresden, Dortmund, Hamburg, Hanover, Leipzig, Nuremberg and Plauen.

The reconstructions will eventually form part of a larger documentary work on German-Jewish history, a "digital memorial". The work thus presents a counterpoint to the political discussion in Germany about whether to build a central Holocaust memorial to the millions of European Jews murdered by the Nazis. That argument is being waged between those who believe the Holocaust should be artistically commemorated in the heart of Berlin and those who say that the most appropriate way to remember it is to restore and take proper care of the former concentration camps.

The computer reconstruction adds a different dimension — it celebrates the lives of the Jews of Germany.

A night of ruination

THE assault on German synagogues began on *Kristallnacht*, the night of November 9, 1938. Two days earlier a German diplomat had been killed by a Jew in Paris.

In retaliation, SS security chief Reinhard Heydrich ordered the destruction of all Jewish places of worship in Germany and Austria. More than 32,000 Jews were sent to camps immediately after the "Night of Broken Glass". A 1 billion marks fine was levied on the Jews and state treasury took all insurance money paid for the broken windows.

In 1925, about 564,000 jews lived in Germany, amounting to 3 per cent of the world's total Jewish population. After the Holocaust and massive emigration, only 20,500 Jews remained. Russian Jews are swelling the numbers and more than 75,000 Jews now live in Germany.

Kohl aides put lid on squabbles

FROM REUTERS IN BONN

JUST three weeks before the German election, Helmut Kohl's aides are scrambling to salvage a campaign that has signalled that the muddle is the message.

Government sources say managers are trying to stamp discipline on the campaign and stop open party squabbling and "off-message" announcements by spokesmen.

"We should not have any more slip-ups," said a senior government source after a week of tactical gaffes by the Chancellor's Christian Democratic Union party. "Now we must pull together. Unity is so important in a campaign, but unfortunately we have given ourselves a few problems recently," the source said. "Now, however, everyone has understood this."

Among those who have contributed to the CDU's less-than-focused message are Herr Kohl and his anointed successor, Wolfgang Schäuble. Herr Schäuble reopened the whole succession debate by refusing to rule out the possibility of a mid-term handover if Herr Kohl is re-elected on September 27.

As Herr Schäuble was speaking, Herr Kohl was assuring voters he would stay the whole four-year course and become Germany's longest-serving Chancellor.

The media and the opposition Social Democratic Party pounced on the contradiction, drowning out the CDU's campaign message.

Polls show Herr Kohl's coalition trailing the SPD and its candidate, Gerhard Schröder, by four to six percentage points.

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Russians face an 'economic dictatorship'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S parliament yesterday backed away from a potentially explosive showdown with President Yeltsin, when deputies postponed voting on the nomination of Viktor Chernomyrdin as Prime Minister.

In a move which could signal a compromise in the damaging week-long political stalemate, parliamentarians voted overwhemingly to put off the vote until Monday and consider a fresh offer of power-sharing from the Kremlin.

Left-wing opposition parties have led the campaign against Mr Chernomyrdin, who is blamed along with Mr Yeltsin for plunging the economy into its present crisis. Yesterday the currency continued its slide with the dollar worth 18 roubles, down from only six last month. The Duma, the lower house of parliament, threw out Mr Chernomyrdin's nomination on Monday and seemed set to do so again until the Federation Council, the upper chamber, voted 91-17 in his favour in a non-binding confidence motion.



"Pack up your roubles in your old kitbag"

Addressing the upper chamber, Mr Chernomyrdin gave the first details of a recovery plan to pull Russia out of its financial hole. He said the priority was to pay off wages, pensions and other state debts. Although he conceded that this would be inflationary, he planned to stabilise the currency by tying it to Russia's gold and currency reserves.

He added that from January 1999 he would impose "economic dictatorship", meaning that the authorities would impose a flat tax of 20 per cent, close down unprofitable enterprises and reimpose a state monopoly on the lucrative alcohol industry.

"I am ready to take full responsibility," Mr Chernomyrdin said. "This could be the last chance to build a normal economy in Russia . . . If we do not stop the panic, there will be a disaster."

The speech clearly impressed the regional bosses, who do not have great legislative powers but are very influential and want an end to what Vladimir Platov, the Governor of the Tver region, described as "this disgraceful haggling".

The move completely wrongfooted the hotheads in the lower house, particularly when Mr Chernomyrdin won support from Yegor Stroyev, the Speaker of the Council, Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow, and Aleksandr Lebed, the Governor of Krasnoyarsk, who had until then been considered possible alternatives as Prime Minister.

Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, who heads the largest Duma faction, insisted that he was still opposed to Mr Chernomyrdin's candidacy but would attend negotiations with Mr Yeltsin.

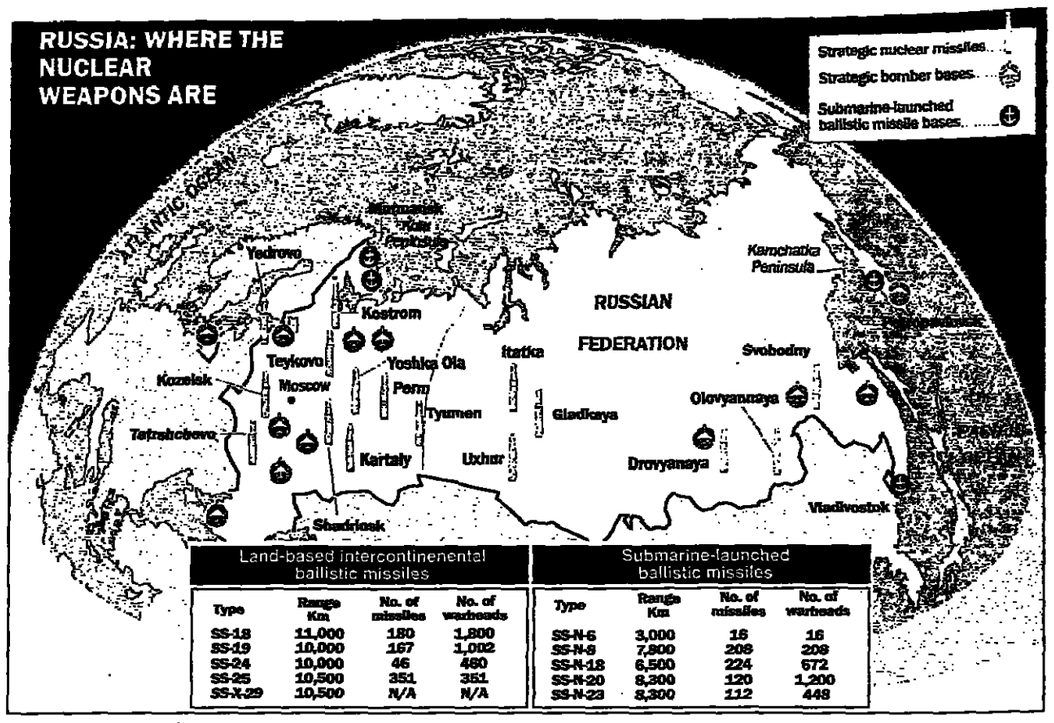
A deal hammered out last week, giving parliament a greater say in the make-up of the Cabinet, collapsed and fresh confrontation is possible, particularly if impeachment proceedings are initiated next week in the Duma.

Even if a deal is agreed, the political battle is far from over. The economy is unlikely to recover for at least two or three years and there are recurring doubts about Mr Yeltsin's physical ability to rule.

The two sides may agree to halt the power struggle for the moment, but it will pick up again as the country enters one of the hardest winters it has faced in years.



Viktor Chernomyrdin wins the support of Russia's upper house, the Federation Council, yesterday



Land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles			
Type	Range Km	No. of missiles	No. of warheads
SS-18	11,000	180	1,800
SS-19	10,000	167	1,092
SS-24	10,000	46	480
SS-25	10,500	351	351
SS-X-29	10,500	N/A	N/A

Submarine-launched ballistic missiles			
Type	Range Km	No. of missiles	No. of warheads
SS-N-6	3,000	16	16
SS-N-8	7,800	208	208
SS-N-18	6,500	224	672
SS-N-20	8,300	120	1,200
SS-N-23	8,300	112	448

West fears 'loose nukes' from desperate men in command

BY RICHARD BEESTON

When President Yeltsin steps into his Mercedes limousine for the short trip into the Kremlin each morning, he is shadowed by a young officer carrying a heavy suitcase with orders that he hopes he never has to carry out.

The ailing Russian leader may be losing his grip on power as the country slides into economic chaos and his rule is challenged daily by his opponents. However, at any time of day or night, as Commander-in-Chief of the Russian armed forces, Mr Yeltsin can summon the officer and order the country's vast nuclear arsenal into action.

The Kremlin may have lost its empire, but it remains a frightening military superpower with as many as 40,000 nuclear warheads, fitted to long-range missiles in silos, loaded on board nuclear submarines, attached to bombers or stored at depots across the country.

The black suitcase, nicknamed the "football" in America but known in Russia as Cheget, is a mobile communications system which enables the President to give the order to fire to the military's general staff. Once the command is received, the launching process would be initiated and eight minutes later the first warheads would be airborne.

In the present turmoil of the international markets and the Kremlin intrigues, the role of the military in Russia is often neglected, even though it represents arguably one of the greatest dangers to mankind today. Whether by accident, theft or sabotage, Russia's nuclear weapons are becoming more vulnerable as central authority weakens and the military has fewer and fewer resources to pay and feed its 1.2 million men in uniform.

It's like Kabila's army, only his soldiers have Kalashnikovs, ours have nuclear weapons

"These conditions are very dangerous because they make the armed forces more unstable, they loosen the lines of control," said Pavel Felgenhauer, a military analyst for the daily *Segodnya* newspaper. "It's like [Congolese President Laurent] Kabila's army, only his soldiers have Kalashnikovs — ours have nuclear weapons."

Both Western and Russian military experts are at pains to point out that no nuclear weapons have ever gone missing, and aside from the occasional theft of nuclear materials from research laboratories the arsenal is well protected.

However, there are doubts about how much longer a Third World economy can maintain a superpower military structure. Already the signs are alarming.

Near Saratov, on the Volga river, the Tamanskaya Division is in charge of a battery of ten Topol missiles, Russia's most sophisticated intercontinental ballistic weapon.

Colonel Vladimir, a senior officer at the base, explained that he last received his salary in April and in desperation to feed his family had borrowed from his mother-in-law, who like many elderly Russians had kept the money for her funeral.

"It was not an easy thing to do but I told her 'even if, God forbid, you die, I will bury you'. Reluctantly she gave me 1,000 roubles [then worth under £100] which will probably last us one month and a half," he said.

Other officers recounted similarly depressing stories, including a husband and wife, both in the armed forces, who were forced to send their children to stay with grandparents while they volunteered for as many combat exercises as possible, since they are fed high calorie meals.

"When we volunteer for excercise we get four days of good meals and for three days we diet," said Tatyana, a military doctor.

Other officers have taken more desperate measures to survive. According to Western military sources, theft of military equipment and stealing among the servicemen themselves is common place.

Experts insist that most Russians are hardy and resourceful and can survive even without pay. But that assumption does not take into consideration the threat now posed by the dangers of hyperinflation and the risk of remote areas running out of food or fuel in winter.

In one recent incident an army major went on the rampage in a tank in central Russia to protest at the failure to pay wages. The money was quickly found for him and his whole unit.

Aleksandr Golts, the military correspondent of *Itogi* magazine, said that commanders in some areas were using servicemen as virtual slaves working in construction or doing odd jobs in order to barter for bread and electricity.

With the officer corps becoming small-time businessmen in order to survive, a doomsday scenario is not difficult to imagine.

Graham Allison, a former US Assistant Defence Secretary now at Harvard University, gave a warning this week that there was little to stop "a colonel and two lieutenants" effectively privatising a dozen nuclear warheads.

He added: "The overriding reason why Russia's economic meltdown matters is that it magnifies the threat of 'loose nukes' — the theft of one or a dozen weapons, sale to a rogue state or terrorist group, and use of these weapons to threaten or attack . . . "

Starvation threatens poorest as blight rots potatoes

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

A POOR grain harvest, failed potato crop and sharp reduction in food imports could all combine this winter to cause severe food shortages in many parts of Russia. Some regions may even face starvation as soaring prices and transport costs leave the poorest people unable to afford even basic foodstuffs.

Figures released by the State Statistical Committee yesterday showed that by the end of August, only 28.6 million tonnes of grain had been harvested, just over half the 55.2 million tonnes brought in by the same time last year. The main cause of the shortage has been ascribed to bad weather — torrential rain swept over most of the country throughout August.

The rain, which followed a drought of several weeks, has also hit the potato crop. While no official statistic are available, farmers have found much of the crop ruined by the fungus *phytophtora*, which thrives in wet conditions.

Sergei Solenko, chief of the crop department of the Agriculture Ministry, predicted this week that the potato harvest would be very poor. "People survive on potatoes," he said. They are a crucial part of the Russian diet. Almost every dacha has its potato plot and the poorest families, who are unable to afford vegetables in the shops, rely largely on their own supplies to take them through the winter.

Humanitarian aid organisations in Russia are fearful of a major crisis over food supplies. The International Red Cross is launching an emergency winter appeal for the second successive year to alleviate the situation in the worst-hit areas. Last year, the appeal raised £5 million, almost all from donor countries outside Russia. This year it is aiming for at least £10 million.

"A year ago we were already looking at entire regions where people were living below basic subsistence levels," said Caroline Hurford of the International Red Cross Moscow delegation. "This winter, with higher prices and new problems with food supplies, we are likely to be looking at a far more serious problem."

The problem is exacerbated by a new shortage of food imports, with suppliers halting deliveries — including those to Moscow — because of uncertainty over the rouble.

Viktor Khlystun, Director of the Institute of Agrarian Market Studies and himself a former agriculture minister, said this week that he anticipated acute shortages of vegetable oil and meat products.

War on tuberculosis

Moscow: Three international health organisations plan to launch a fundraising drive to fight tuberculosis in Russia, where drug-resistant strains are increasing, Tass said. Médecins Sans Frontières, Medical Emergency Relief International, and the Public Health Research Institute plan to raise £31 million to treat up to 20,000 victims. *(AP)*

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Roads are bypassed by crop crusaders

Swampy and Co are passé as genetically modified food becomes new fashion for young protesters, reports **Stephen Farrell**

AS THE protesters beneath Birmingham's Northern Relief Road dig in for a lengthy stand-off with bailiffs, many believe it will be the last of the great games of underground hide-and-seek.

The road-building programme has been reduced from 600 schemes under the Thatcher Government to 37 announced by Labour last month, and there is a sense that that battle has been won and a new enemy lies ahead.

For the dedicated followers of fashionable causes — the educated, middle-class campaigners who would once have been marching with CND or refusing to pay their poll tax — the new battlefield is clear: roads are out, genes are in.

Each weekend white-suited protesters are to be found trampling through fields pulling up genetically engineered maize, sugar beet and potatoes that were undergoing government-approval tests for agrochemical companies eager to develop high-yield, low-disease crops. There are 369 sites running trials for genetically modified (GM) crops. All must be registered with the Department of the Environment, making them easy to target.

> "The political scene had shifted. Things fell into place in a way they do sometimes"

The new wave of protesters has learnt from Swampy and Muppet Dave and knows that direct action campaigns grab headlines quicker than the tiresomely democratic process of lobbying MPs and local authorities. Some are former road protesters. Others are drawn from the wider peace and environmental movements, or are first-time activists who fear that the new foods will cross-pollinate conventional and organic crops and contaminate the food chain. Most believe that although roads will continue to be an issue, with green-belt housing and supermarket development, there has been a changing of the green guard.

"The political scene had shifted," says Melanie Jarman, a leading light in last year's protest against Manchester airport's £172-million second runway and co-founder of the new protest group genetiX Snowball. "The Labour Government came in about the time that a lot of people involved in roads protests had reached burnout point anyway. With GM crops, here was another technology that seemed to be unnecessary, ecologically unsafe and involved decisions made in the interests of a small group of unaccountable people. Practically speaking, the crops were all over the country and in place for criminal damage activities. Things fell into place in a way that they just do sometimes."

Jerry Middleton, a veteran of the Newbury bypass and founder of the environmental group E-team, agrees. "Every time there's a GM story in the papers more roads people will get involved."

Support for their analysis comes from an unlikely quarter. Professor John Beringer, chairman of the Government's advisory committee on releases to the environment, was told a year ago that there would be a build-up of activity by former road protesters because "there wasn't any other obvious issue for them to go to".

Many of the attacks have been aimed at Monsanto, the US agrochemical giant that manufactures Round-Up, the world's bestselling herbicide. With sales of $7.5 billion last year, the company has become something of a hate figure for protesters, along with competitors such as DuPont, Zeneca and Novartis.

GenetiX Snowball is only one of the groups set up to oppose them, and its links to past protest movements are clear. It is run from Manchester's One World Centre, as was the Manchester airport campaign; media calls are put through to the same mobile telephone used to co-ordinate past protests, and photographs of genetiX campaigners show some of the same faces who were in trees or outside peace camps in the 1980s and 1990s.

The Internet abounds with emotive language, talking of "Frankenfood", "clone masks" and "Global Days of Action". In March last year the London-based Genetic Engineering Network began a website, newsletter and e-mail list to provide local groups with dates and Ordnance Survey grid references for raids.

Monsanto insists the food technology is safe and points out that 25,000 field trials have been cleared by regulatory agencies around the world. Dan Verakis, a Monsanto spokesman, said: "Compare trials of GM organisms with drug trials in the pharmaceutical industry: they test for side-effects and, if they find one drug is going to hurt people, they cancel the trial. The leap of logic these people make is to say that, if one new drug is bad, all drugs are bad and should be pulled off the market.

"These people say more data is necessary and yet destroy trials, which prevents the very collection of that data. What side of their mouths are they speaking out of?"



Women in protest: from left, Andrea Needham, Melanie Jarman, Kathryn Tulip and Rowan Tilly under the banner of genetiX Snowball, a group formed last year in Leeds

Activists find common cause

Veteran campaigners reject force in favour of 'non-violent and accountable' action

SITTING in a treehouse at the Manchester airport runway protest last year, **Melanie Jarman** cut a strange figure thumbing through Thoreau's 1849 essay *On Civil Disobedience*.

Although central to the demonstration, and ready to acknowledge her debt to Swampy and Co, the 27-year-old English literature graduate had a different approach from fellow protesters hurling insults at bailiffs below.

A year later, she and like-minded campaigners formed genetiX Snowball. Some had a history of involvement in airport or roads protests. Others were drawn from the anti-nuclear movement.

"I became pissed off at people on site drinking a lot who didn't seem to have a very clear agenda about why they were there," she says. "Some just wanted to trash the developer's generators late at night but I was more politicised."

The group, formed after a workshop in Leeds last year, claims to use non-violent and accountable means, carrying out raids in daylight and giving names and addresses if arrested.

She also believes the era of the media-friendly nickname had outlived its usefulness. "The pet-name culture trivialised what we were about. It made us seem fluffy friends living in the countryside." In protests over genetically modified crops, each genetiX protester can only uproot 100 plants to avoid creating "elitist action heroes".

Andrea Needham was one of four women cleared of causing £1.5 million of damage to a Hawk jet at a British Aerospace factory in Warton, Lancashire in 1996.

A jury accepted their claim that the attack was justified because the aircraft was intended for use by the Indonesian Government against the people of East Timor. Her participation in genetiX grew out of a lengthy involvement with Ploughshares, the peace movement inspired by the Old Testament injunction to beat swords into farm tools.

Ms Needham, 32, from Bethnal Green, East London, said: "The whole issue of genetic modification has been foisted on the public with no consultation. There is no proof these organisms are safe and we do not know their long-term effects."

Rowan Tilly also came into the protest via peace campaigning. Ms Tilly, 40, spent six months at the Greenham Common camp, and in 1993 was among a group of women who scaled the walls of Buckingham Palace to protest at British nuclear testing in Nevada.

Invited to talk at a Newbury bypass meeting in January 1997 she became increasingly convinced that the environmental and peace movements could learn from each other. Declaring her intention to sabotage the developers' equipment she was arrested for cutting fencing guarding diggers.

Ms Tilly says: "Our aim is to bring in people who haven't done direct action before, but roads protesters are becoming a big proportion of the campaign."

Kathryn Tulip is a solicitor who also has a PhD in toxicology. But she has just given up her job as a housing lawyer to work for the anti-genetic movement.

Her main protest work has been against logging in Canada, and weekend visits to the Twyford Down, M11 and Newbury road camps. Last year Ms Tulip, 39, carried out an "ethical shoplifting" publicity stunt, removing Western Red Cedar wood from a timber yard in Manchester and bringing it to a police station to report it stolen from the native population of British Columbia.

Her involvement in genetically-modified foods, she says, brings together the scientific and legal background in her education. The public, she claims, is unwittingly part of the experiment.

HOW TO SPOT THE YOUNG MR ANGRY

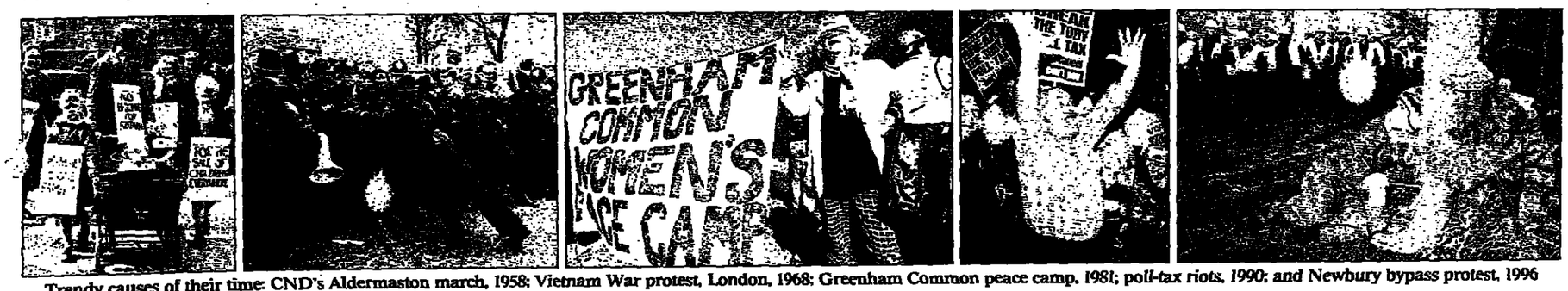
THE habitual protester tends to be an angry young man or woman from a middle-class home, whose parents may themselves have been on demonstrations (John O'Leary writes).

There is no agreement among academics on a psychological profile of those who are drawn to protest movements. But most activists share certain characteristics: they have time on their hands, distrust authority and react positively to events.

Psychologists draw a distinction between those who give time to a cause and and those who re prepared to take action such as attacking scientists of whose practices they disapprove. Many see the fanatics as unstable.

Studies of rank-and-file protesters in Britain and America, however, have found that most lead normal lives. Professor Helen Haste, of Bath University, says that the single-issue protester is usually drawn to a cause through personal experience, while the natural protester moves from one cause to the next. "They will tend to have a strong sense of efficacy and a belief that they can have an impact."

It is the way that natural protesters react to events which marks them out. "When most people encounter a situation which is disturb they try to ignore it or are l atened. People who become activists get angry rather than depressed."



Trendy causes of their time: CND's Aldermaston march, 1958; Vietnam War protest, London, 1968; Greenham Common peace camp, 1981; poll-tax riots, 1990; and Newbury bypass protest, 1996

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CRITERION 369 1737/344 4444 HILARIOUS 3rd GREAT YEAR THE REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged) Mats Thur at 3pm, Sat at 5pm Sun at 4pm, Eves at 8pm THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (abridged) Tuesday at 8pm

DOMINION 0171 656 1895/0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps (12+) 0171 416 6099/ 0171 420 0000 BEST NEW MUSICAL OLIVIER AWARDS 1998 Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST 'AN ENCHANTING EVENING- GENUINELY GLORIOUS' D.Tel 'A FEAST OF GOOD FUN' D.Mail Mon-Wed, Fri & Sat 7.30, Wed, Thu & Sat mats 2.30 GOOD SEATS AVAILABLE NOW Tickets £18.50 - £35.00

DONMAR WAREHOUSE 369 1732 IMELDA STAUNTON and Her Big Band Until Sat only: Tue, Wed, Fri 8.15 Thu, Sat 6.00 & 9.00

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL 5S cc (bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444/420 0000 Grps 494 5454/413 3311/312 6000 MISS SAIGON 'THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME' NOW IN ITS 6TH BREATHTAKING YEAR! Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 2pm Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O.

DUCHESS 0171 494 5075 cc 0171 420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 494 5454 BELINDA LANG ALEXANDER HANSON CAROLINE HARKER THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE ALAN AYCKBOURN'S hit comedy 'Laugh out loud funny' D.Tel Mon-Sat 7.45pm Mats Thu & Sat 3pm

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GARRICK 0171 494 5085/312 1990/494 5068 (no bkg fee) Groups 0171 494 5454 Winner of 16 Major Awards The Royal National Theatre Production WILLIAM PHILIP MARJORIE GAUNT WHITCHURCH YATES JB Priestley's AN INSPECTOR CALLS 'Thrilling...Must be seen' D.Mail 'Two hours enthralling, eternally stunning drama' D.Tel Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 5.00 & 8.15 Mats Wed 2.30

GIELGUD 0171 494 5065/cc 0171 420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 494 5454 FELICITY KENDAL NICKY HENSON JOSIE LAWRENCE ROBERT BATHURST ALARMS & EXCURSIONS MICHAEL FRAYN'S NEW COMEDY Dir by MICHAEL BLAKEMORE Mon-Sat 7.45pm Mats Thur & Sat 3pm Reduced price prevs 10 Sept Opens 14 Sept

HAYMARKET 930 8800/344 4444 Eves 7.45 Mats Thur 3 & Sat 4 THE PETER HALL COMPANY Christopher Cazenove Susannah York Oliver Cotton Geraldine Fitzgerald Richard Todd Barbara Murray OSCAR WILDE'S CLASSIC COMEDY AN IDEAL HUSBAND 'GREAT AND GLORIOUS' S.Tms

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LONDON PALLADIUM 0171 494 5090/344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 494 5454/413 3221 SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER 'A SENSATIONAL NIGHT OUT' D.Mirror 'HOT STUFF ANY NIGHT OF THE WEEK' Times 'THE NEXT HUGE WEST END SMASH' GMTV Mon-Sat 7.30 Wed & Sat Mats 2.30 NOW BOOKING TO OCT 1999 SOME SEATS AVAIL FOR WEDS MAT

LYRIC 0171 494 5045 (+fee) cc 344 4444 (+fee) Kate Adelaide Tina Mawston Lloyd Owen Imogen Stubbs CLOSER BY PATRICK MARBER BEST NEW PLAY Laurence Olivier Award '98 BEST COMEDY Evening Standard Award Mon-Sat 7.30, Wed & Sat Mat 3pm

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 452 3000 Grps 0171 452 3010 24hr cc bkg 10171 420 0000 OLIVIER Today 2.00 & 7.15, Mon 7.15 Rodgers & Hammerstein's OKLAHOMA! LYTTELTON Tonl, Mon 7.30 (PREVIEWS) CLEO, CAMPING, EMMANUELLE AND DICK a new play by Terry Johnson.

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 cc 24hrs 344 4444 Grps 405 1567/413 3311 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER T.S.ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING MUSICAL CATS Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 Bars open at 6.45 THEATRE AIR CONDITIONED

OLD VIC 0171 494 5372 (bkg fee) DAVID SUCHET PETER SHAFFER'S AMADEUS Directed by PETER HALL From 14 October - Now Booking

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PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400 First Call 0171 420 0065 cc24hrs 344 4444 Grps (12+) 0171 420 0069 Freephone Grps 0800 614903 'IF YOU ONLY SEE ONE MUSICAL THIS YEAR MAKE IT 'SHOW BOAT' Int Herald Tribune SHOW BOAT Eves 7.30pm, Mats Thur & Sat 2.30pm 50 Grand Circle Seats sold from 10am Mon-Thur eves only for £10.00 FINAL 3 WEEKS!

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France's legion of heroes and villains

Medals and honours are practically two a franc, argues **Ben Macintyre**

The entire French football team was presented with the Légion d'honneur this week, at a ceremony during which President Chirac pinned medals not only on the 22 players in the victorious World Cup squad but also on their trainers, medical attendants and the man in the tracksuit who cuts up the half-time oranges.

This mass gong-bang brought forth some dyspeptic snuffling about "debasing the currency" from senior légionnaires, but Napoleon would have been delighted with the Elysée Palace line-up, for the wily despot invented the Légion in 1802 as the highest civilian honour France can bestow precisely for such purposes.

In theory the institution of the Légion, with its ascending ranks of members, officers, commanders, grand officers and Grand Eagle (now extinct), was intended to forge a new "nobility" based on merit rather than birth. But as Bonaparte and his successors rapidly discovered, dishing out the baubles was also an effective and inexpensive way of demonstrating power and dignity, rewarding notoriety and impressing foreigners. Like the best hotels, the French Republic decorates lavishly and often.

France has a richer variety of gongs than any other country in the world: there are medals for farmers and sailors, teachers and mothers, pop stars, potentates and entire towns and cities. Verdun has a total of 26 decorations. Until recently there was the splendid Order of Postal Merit for postmen of distinction, as well as the Order of Touristic Merit for travel agents and the Order of Saharan Merit, which sadly fell into desuetude when France ceased to own any of the Sahara.

The State still hands out medals for weeding — the Order of Agricultural Merit known as "the leek" on account of its green ribbon — and even for breeding. The Medaille de la Famille Française, invented in 1920 to encourage repopulation after the First World War, comes in three attractive shades: bronze for couples with four or five children, silver for six or seven and the coveted gold medal for patriotic fecundity above the call of duty in families with eight or more offspring.

While in Britain decorations are usually displayed discreetly and only on special occasions, French honours are there to be worn on the sleeve, or rather the lapel, to show individual prestige and intimidate traffic wardens. Richard Cobb, the late Oxford historian, claimed to have had the Légion insignia sewn on the lapel of his pyjamas.

Each order and medal has rigorously established grades, designs and colours, but the criteria for membership can be most elastic. For example Seamus Heaney, the Nobel Prize-winning poet, is a member of the distinguished French Order of Arts and Letters, which may be one of the few things he has in common with Sylvester Stallone and Sharon Stone. The ranks of the Légion d'honneur place the French football team alongside every surviving veteran of the First World War and "Stormin" Norman Schwarzkopf of a more recent conflict; genuine heroes such as Pete Goss, the British yachtsman, who saved a French rival from the waves last year, are in the club, but so are less commendable figures such as Manuel Noriega, the former Panamanian dictator, and Maurice Papon, the convicted French war criminal.

Among the perks available to Légion members are an annual tax-free stipend of 40 francs, a funeral with full military honours and a special boarding school for their daughters. But the award also provides useful opportunities for histrionic gestures: George Sand turned hers down, saying it would make her look "like an old canteen waitress"; Hector Berlioz was enraged when the Interior Ministry offered him the honour in lieu of the 3,000 francs he was owed for writing his *Requiem*; and this year Robert De Niro said he would send his prize back because a French magistrate investigating a call-girl ring had hauled him out of his Paris hotel for nine hours of questioning.

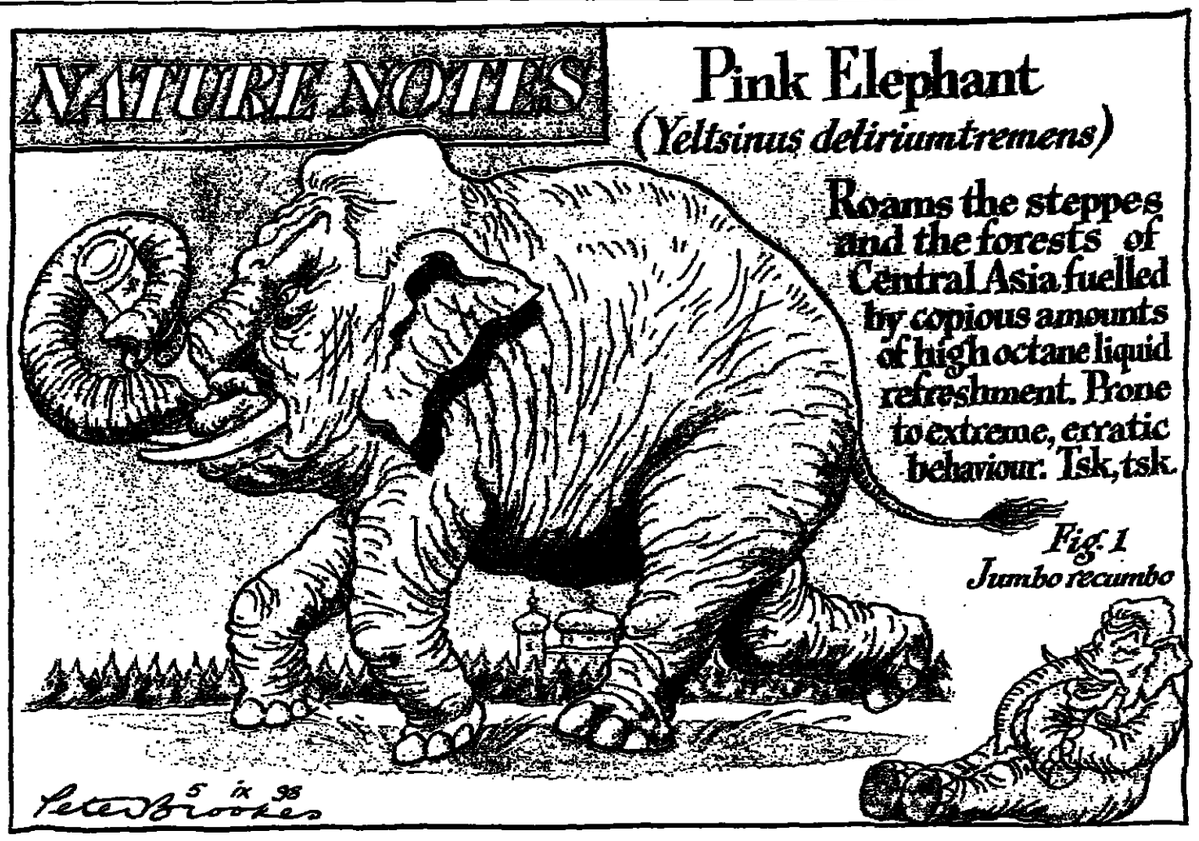
> There are even French awards for fecundity

An estimated quarter of a million people currently have the right to sport the Légion's lapel bar or rosette and some 1,500 more join the elite every year, but no one knows how many medals and badges have been handed out since Napoleon's day. Vast, complex and, to all but a handful of people, completely incomprehensible, the French medal system has inevitably attracted accusations of cronyism or worse.

In 1887 President Grévy was brought down by a scandal over the sale of decorations and in 1963 General de Gaulle declared that the ranks of the Légion had become bloated. The general therefore came up with a unique and brilliantly French solution to the plethora of gongs: he created some more medals. De Gaulle's new Order of Merit subsumed many of the other varieties of medal-worthy merit and eventually added more than 100,000 extra honours to the system with fresh ranks of knights, officers, commanders, grand officers, holders of the grand cross and grand masters.

Over the past two centuries the popularity of the Légion has ebbed and flowed, often reflecting France's evolving self-image and the tastes of those in power. The aristocratic President Giscard d'Estaing disdained such trinkets and pointedly declined to wear his Grand Master's ceremonial chain for the official portrait, but President Mitterrand adored officiating at Légion ceremonies, particularly when these gave him the opportunity to patronise politicial enemies.

Oddly, France has yet to invent a medal specifically for journalists, but I have not given up hope that somewhere in this enormous industry of official congratulation there is a little something for me. I have ruled out the family medal (inconceivable), the agricultural medal (grubby), the sporting medal (tiring) and the maritime medal (seasickness). Sharon Stone has better legs than I do and I can't sing, but having studied the form I note that, in spite of the abolition of the Order of Postal Merit, postmen still win more medals than most other French workers. So that's it, a quick change of profession and that coveted Postal Order is within my grasp.



The talisman of state

A President is a powerbroker. To demean the man is to diminish politics

Simon Jenkins

Bill Clinton did his job well this week in Northern Ireland. He soothed the wounds of Omagh. Glitz stirred adrenalin and adrenalin relieved grief. The presence of the world's most powerful man was a gesture of solidarity. And since gestures involve an exchange of gifts, the IRA felt obliged to promise to think about disarmament and the Unionist leader, David Trimble, promised to think about talking to Gerry Adams. Like Montagues and Capulets they were bidden to "seal up the mouth of outrage for a while".

There is no rhyme or reason to President Clinton's globetrotting at present. It is a noisy baggage train into which are crammed his wife, Monica Lewinsky, Boris Yeltsin, Tony Blair, Kenneth Starr, Afghan missiles, Omagh bombs and quotations from Yeats. Each move is reactive, yet each seems interrelated. The bereaved of an Omagh bomb merit a high-profile visit, but not those of a Bangladeshi flood or a Swissair disaster. The Ulster peace process gets a 12-hour whiff of presidential oxygen, but not the Palestinian one. President Yeltsin must be helped in his hour of anguish, but not a dozen other embattled leaders.

If progress to local democracy in Northern Ireland has to be resuscitated by a visit from an American President, it is doomed. Thank goodness it does not. Progress is a slow stumble from one external intervention to another, each occasioned by an act of violence. I wonder how much faster things might move if outsiders intervened only when there was no bomb. But the question this week was not what Bill Clinton could do for Ulster, but what Ulster could do for Bill Clinton. To hear crowds yelling "We love you, Bill" and "You're beautiful" must have been the nearest he had come for a long time to political intoxication. I am surprised he did not pitch camp at Stormont Castle for the rest of his presidency.

Such incidents may be God's gift to cynicism, but they cannot be left at that. The biggest and the richest states in the world are now reeling under unconvincing leaders. America, Russia, Japan and Germany are all ruled by men in domestic disarray. Small wonder they dash hither and thither on foreign adventures, famous rest cures for bruised egos. They send missiles, peace missions, aid packages and speechwriters wherever the mood takes them. On Thursday, CNN had Mr Clinton speaking in Dublin rather than Belfast, but he might as well have been in Nairobi or the Nevsky Prospekt — anywhere but home. Mr Clinton is roaming the globe like a wounded buffalo away from the herd, sometimes goring, sometimes feasting, sometimes mooing sadly, as if aware the end is nigh.

There is nothing new in rulers escaping personal troubles to indulge themselves overseas. The Plantagenets sought "to busy giddy minds with foreign quarrels". So did President Saddam Hussein. Foreign affairs feed both the ambition and the paranoia of power. Margaret Thatcher resorted to an opera box at Versailles when her enemies were plotting against her at home. America's present wanderlust is strangely antique. Like the Roman and British empires at their zenith, Washington has run out of realms to conquer and of things to do. As a result it is starting to fidget.

Under America's leadership, the West has won the second great conflict of the 20th century. The Cold War did not just end, it was a thumping victory. Few have mastered the implications of this. Nations still spend stupidly on arms. The West continues to impede Russia's recovery by bloating it with aid. America accords quasi-satanic status to such lesser foes as Islamic militants, international terrorists and drugs barons. Under George Bush and Bill Clinton, America even evolved a new version of "nuclear madness". By raining down aerial punishment on a random selection of wrongdoers, it inspires uncertainty in friend and foe alike. Undisciplined violence is far more scary than any graduated response. It asserts crudely that might is right. Even a British Labour Cabinet cringes in support.

Yet this fidgeting is no more than the reflexes of a great power with time on its hands. In retrospect, last month's missile strikes against Afghanistan and Sudan were like Gulliver twitching a muscle. The strength is instinctive. The only question is the use to which it is put, a question that vexed and terrified the Lilliputians. Big states are nowadays vastly more powerful than small ones. Their rulers carry vast responsibility.

We are taught that modern rulers must embody the power and dignity of states. We are also told that this embodiment overrides the personality of individuals, however charming or disreputable they may be. Yet an intrusive media has merged these two facets of national leadership and the public has a hard time disentangling them. When people see a cartoon of Mr Clinton lecturing the Russian people with his trousers round his ankles, they are not sure what to think.

To the outside world, Mr Clinton's woes should not matter. When he visits our shores he carries the full majesty not just of his office but of his State. Here is a man who can bomb any foreign country with impunity, and know that the world dare not object. When he visits Russia, that proud yet crippled empire holds its breath. Will Croesus unlock his purse? When he visits Belfast, he comes to comfort and to bless, as if by his charismatic touch he cures the King's Evil. He does these things unimpaired by his personal standing at home.

The outside world needs to believe that the United States is absolutely powerful and absolutely rich. This belief is the talisman of the new world order. Mr Clinton must be invested with dignity, trust and even infallibility. He is the modern version of a medieval Pope. The cynics may poke and jeer and lampoon, but they must eventually respect the office of any man whom a constitution has made powerful. Otherwise we shall all end up gabbling Yeats, and falcons will circle where they choose.

For this reason the efforts now being made to undermine Mr Clinton in Washington seem so dangerous. However ludicrous he may now seem, the US President embodies Hegel's vision of the State as the "actuality of the ethical idea". The American Constitution sets him above faction. Large sums are spent choosing him and then protecting him from danger. He is granted mystique and motorcades. He is a very important person.

In extreme circumstances, Presidents can be impeached. It is a measure of the weakness of the Russian and American Presidents that both are now contemplating that fate. But their Constitutions rightly make impeachment difficult. An elected head of state must not be vulnerable to constant and mischievous challenge. This is why the Kenneth Starr investigation into Mr Clinton's private life is so damaging. From all the evidence so far presented, it is petty, salacious, extravagant and humiliating — even if true. The intrusion is not by a drooling press but by a constitutional process. It may not demean Mr Clinton the man: he has already done that himself. But it does demean Mr Clinton the President.

Many Britons admire the separation of powers in the American Constitution. It strengthens the President as unifier of his nation. Mr Starr, the congressional special prosecutor, strengthens nothing. His assault on Mr Clinton's private life merely weakens the President's ability to act as leader of his nation and the free world, on no basis that is relevant to that leadership. Mr Starr is thus an enemy of the Western alliance and a threat, albeit mild, to the cause of world peace.

I may think Mr Clinton's role in Northern Ireland is cosmetic. I may think that America's projection of its power has become whimsical and often cynical. But we cannot deny America's role as guarantor of world peace. A strong American democracy remains the fountain of that order. The President represents that democracy. Foreign policy is about interest. The West has no interest in the downfall of the President of the United States. He is ex officio the spokesman for freedom. He is a necessary hero.

It's right to fear flying

Air safety figures belie the truth, says **John Adams**

Is our fear of flying irrational? So often we are told that it's safer to fly than to drive. "You've already completed the most dangerous part of your journey," nervous air passengers are reassured having just completed their car journey to the airport. But this myth, established through repetition, rests on simple statistics poorly understood.

It is true that the average deaths per billion miles travelled on the road is much higher than the number per billion miles by air — about 40 times higher. But the airline figure includes only passengers, while the most commonly used figure for roads includes pedestrians and cyclists. The relevant comparison to make with air travel is the death rate on rural motorways or the US Interstate system, which is much lower than the rate for the average road.

The road accident death rates that lead to the conclusion that it is safer to fly than drive are strongly influenced by the high rates of drunken young men, while people dying in air crashes are, on average, older and, when on the road, safer-than-average drivers. Also, since most crashes occur on take-off or landing, the air travel death rate grows as trip lengths decrease.

Leonard Evans of General Motors Reseach Laboratories has shown that in America a 40-year-old, belted, alcohol-free driver in a large car is slightly less likely to be killed in 600 miles of Interstate driving than in a trip of the same distance on a scheduled airline. For a trip of 300 miles, Mr Evans calculated that the air travel fatality risk is about double the risk of driving.

This comparison is, of course, not the complete story. It simply demonstrates the importance of disaggregating averages to make sure that they are relevant to your circumstances. The categories "young men" and "40-year-old driver" also cover large variations. If you are on the road at 3am on a Sunday your probability of dying is more than 100 times greater than at 10am. Tyres, brakes, state of alertness, and above all attitude towards risk are among the myriad relevant factors that bear upon the outcome.

The risks associated with flying also need to be broken down into factors such as aircraft type and age, maintenance, airline, the pilots' age, health and experience, weather and air traffic control systems. Judged by such factors, the Swissair flight from New York to Geneva should have been extremely safe. The cause of the crash has not yet been established but, assuming it is, it will become apparent with the benefit of hindsight that the probability of dying on that particular flight was "one" — certainty.

Risk refers to the probability of something nasty happening in the future. Most risk estimates refer to the probability of dying last year — the number of deaths in the past divided by some measure of exposure. Their use as risk estimates assumes that next year will be like last. Such estimates are often little more than authoritative-sounding expressions of uncertainty.

We are very partial masters of our fates. We respond to risk estimates. High ones can make us more careful, low ones more complacent. Perhaps that is a good reason for flying Swissair next time.

John Adams is Professor of Geography at University College London and author of Risk.

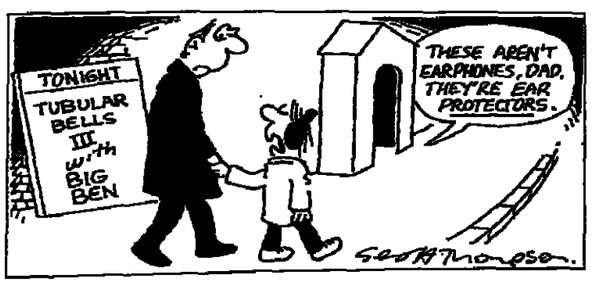
Road to Rome

DIANA, Princess of Wales, was swotting up on the ways of Rome before her death. I can disclose that a penny catechism, the redoubt of orthodox Catholic teaching, was found among her belongings when her apartments at Kensington Palace were cleared out. The little red booklet contains questions and answers on the faith, such as " Who made me? God made me". Its discovery is one of the strongest signs yet that the Princess was considering converting; the doctrinal tract, which sends shivers through liberal adherents, is usually carried only by sincere believers.



The Princess probably picked up the booklet as she dabbled with Catholicism in her final years. Three years ago, Father Antony Sutch, now the Headmaster of Downside School but then the resident at St Benet's Hall, Oxford, disclosed that he had been instructing her (an indiscretion for which he was subsequently put under an abbot's ban). She was also occasionally spotted lighting candles in the Carmelite Church near Kensington Palace.

"The booklet is a teaching manual," says Father Alban McCoy, an eminent theologian . "It is not something you own through mere curiosity. It would have been an incredible shock for the monarchy if she had converted." Did Diana's interest in Rome influence her children? Prince Harry last week joined Prince William at Eton's Manor House, known in elevated clerical circles as "the Catholic house".



● *THE CIA has opened a Kid's Page on the Internet, providing an ABC guide to spying. "We persuade people to tell us their secrets," purrs the website reassuringly. As bedtime reading, it recommends* The First Book of Codes and Ciphers *and* The US Frogmen of World War II. *Obviously, you can never be too young to snoop for your country.*

Fan male

IS TONY BLAIR suffering from some kind of obsessive compulsive disorder? I ask because he has been sending letters to popular music celebrities, often with nerdy pedigrees, telling them he is their number one fan. Mike Oldfield, of *Tubular Bells*, is the latest recipient: "Mr Blair wrote to me saying that the first *Tubular Bells* was one of his favourite albums. I've got the letter stuck on my fridge."

I have heard of at least two other examples, including a herogram the PM sent to Slade, the ludicrous glam rockers. Wondering if Blair's behaviour is akin to trainspotting, I called Oliver James, the clinical psychologist: "It is too strong to call it an obsessive compulsive disorder. The Prime Minister loves pop music and is more like a child in a sweet shop in search of his heroes."

● *GWYNETH PALTROW believes in family values. The sublime actress (pictured right) intends to throw in the job if she starts baby-making, following the example of her mother, Blythe Danner, who gave up Broadway stardom: "Acting wasn't her priority. I shall feel the same when I start having children." Her retirement, however temporary, will be much mourned.*

Hezza prezza

HE MAY have lost the ultimate prize in politics but Michael Heseltine can take some comfort at least from winning *Tatler's* Party of the Year Award. The prize was given for his belated 65th birthday bash in July at his Oxfordshire home. "The party was extraordinarily lavish," a partygoer recalls. "There were the most incredible fireworks, a band, a disco and gallons of champagne and whisky."



● *A BOTTLE of Diary champagne goes out to Florence Frasier, from East London, who has just celebrated her 106th birthday. Among her belongings is a copy of* The Times *announcing her birth.*

House calls

A RARE victory for the Noise Abatement Society. Vince Power, apparently a promoter of rock concerts, has been ordered to spend an evening in the front rooms of people whose homes are next to one of his livelier venues. Camden council has requested that the millionaire owner of the Mean Fiddler chain of clubs drop by residents in Swiss Cottage so that he can witness the aftermath of closing time at his Cube Bar. "I don't mind visiting," he says. "I will be able to establish exactly where this noise is coming from." I expect he will.

● *UNDERVALUED at home, the Duchess of York is cherished in Italy. Locals living in the shadow of the castle owned by her friend, Count Gaddo della Gherardesca, admire her so much that tonight she will receive a prize from the region's annual literary awards.*



MO MOWLAM is becoming a rock'n'roll chick. After inviting Sir Elton John to soothe the crowds at Stormont Castle so successfully earlier this year, the Northern Ireland Secretary has been jamming with an ever more diverse collection of rock music folk.

Her latest outing came last weekend when she joined Eric Clapton and Boyzone on a private jet to fly to a concert given by the Manic Street Preachers at Slane Castle near Dublin. Mowlam boogied on down with her friends backstage while the Welsh group entertained their fans with their special brand of politically charged music.

The appreciation was mutual. "She was really cool," gushes James Dean Bradfield, the band's lead singer. After the gig, Mowlam chatted with the musicians like any regular on the popular music scene. "There was a lively discussion about the prospects of nuclear warfare, the rock'n'roll lifestyle and having a fear of flying."

While the Manics have had a somewhat radical past (an album called *Generation Terrorists* and an appearance on *Top of the Pops* in IRA-style balaclavas and combat trousers), they are now very new Labour. Mowlam headed home with their number one hit ringing in her ears: *If You Tolerate This, Your Children Will Be Next.*

هذا من الأصل

CHIPS WITH VINEGAR

The sweet and sour taste of Fujitsu's closure

If any confirmation were needed that job losses would be the Government's most potent political headache, the closure of Fujitsu's semiconductor factory in Tony Blair's constituency is a pointed reminder. Coming after the Siemens announcement that it was shedding 1,100 jobs in Tyneside, these two departing swallows look set to make an autumn of worry for Messrs Blair and Brown and their colleagues.

The shutdowns can hardly have taken ministers by surprise. The semiconductor industry suffers from violent cycles, and the current downturn has led to price cuts of 95 per cent. Add in the strong pound and an Asian crisis creating much cheaper labour to the East: plant closures here are inevitable. Any economic slowdown in the UK will only exacerbate the problem.

Job losses, however, make more dramatic news than job gains. Yesterday, it was also announced that 1,000 new jobs were to be created in Scotland, mainly in telephone call centres. Such ventures may prove to be the saving of depressed regions. Call centre managers have discovered that northern and Scottish locations are desirable, because callers think the operators' accents reassuring, and because turnover and wages are lower than in the South. Computers have at last made the tyranny of distance irrelevant for regions of Britain remote from London.

So the old pattern of jobs being lost in traditional northern Labour areas and gained in southern Conservative ones may start to change. This should help Mr Blair in his attempt to mollify Labour MPs who see factories close in their constituencies. Meanwhile, the move from manufacturing to services ought to strengthen new Labour support at the expense of old Labour. Call centres symbolise modern, IT-literate individualism: factories stand for unionised, machine-operating collectivism.

Mr Blair should not feel shy of making the case for this shift. Educated by the past decade or so, voters are already starting to understand the creative destruction wreaked by capitalism in a dynamic economy. The labour market flexibility that has encouraged foreign investors to set up in this country also allows them to shut down easily. And the faster a sector grows — such as information technology and financial services — the more precarious its jobs often are. But better that factories such as Fujitsu's should have chosen Britain in the first place than not at all.

Most people now appreciate that jobs are not for life, that skills are not for life and that careers may take a different course several times in a working lifetime. Britons are becoming more like Americans, who are used to losing one job and finding another.

And so far, despite the recent bad news, unemployment is still falling. According to August's employment statistics, the number of people out of work and claiming benefit fell by 26,000. This will not last, but for now, politicians can at least rely on quoting the net figures.

When the unemployment figures start to turn up again, ministers will have a tougher job on their hands. No amount of talk about flexibility and dynamism will disguise the facts when well qualified, highly skilled workers are finding it impossible to secure a job. There will undoubtedly be pain for a time. But it may be mitigated by a fall in sterling, allowing manufacturing some much-needed respite.

And, if Gordon Brown has managed the cycle in his leader's best interests, the economy ought then to start recovering after a year or two of slow or no growth. That, conveniently, will coincide with the date of the next election. Between now and then, ministers will be on the defensive with party and public alike. Their main concern will be to avoid using phrases such as "a price worth paying", "if it isn't hurting, it isn't working" and "*je ne regrette rien*".

NEW TERM, NEW BATTLE

Testing at five will sort the good schools from the bad

The Government's proposal to test four and five-year-olds has provoked fury from teaching unions and education "experts". The notion that teachers might use this information to group children according to their ability — "setting" — was damned by the National Association for Primary Education as "wholly wrong educationally". This depressing, predictable response to a welcome policy shows yet again how deeply engrained damaging theories have become in the education establishment.

Testing children when they start school is sensible. Examining ability to read, write and count will help teachers to identify their most able charges and those in need of more assistance. Setting is the logical consequence. It allows teachers to help the struggling and stretch the bright.

Most parents might think this is nothing but common sense: for many in the teaching profession it verges on heresy. Testing children at five would reveal that not every child is the same and that each possesses unique qualities which need to be nurtured in different ways. This undermines "progressive" theories that every child should be treated identically, irrespective of aptitude, in mixed ability classes.

This progressive ideal has saturated teaching in most of Britain's schools for a generation and it has failed. Weaker pupils have not received the help they need. Nearly half of 11-year-olds in England and Wales fail to reach the expected standards in maths and English.

No doubt nervous of parents' response to this policy, Charles Clarke, the Minister for School Standards, has urged them not to "coach" their children for these tests. This, he said, would be "counter-productive". Yet the tests focus on skills which every parent should impart to their offspring from an early age, how to hold a book the right way up, reading letters, counting objects. A survey of almost 7,000 thousand infants revealed that only 20 per cent could identify their own first name and recognise 15 letters. The Government should not be afraid of encouraging parents to read to their children, to teach them the alphabet and how to count. If parents do this they are not "coaching", but merely fulfilling their responsibility to lay the groundwork for their child's formal education.

Once these tests have become an established part of the education system, the Government should publish the results school by school. By testing pupils at five, and again at seven and 11, parents will be able to see not just how much progress their own children have made, but also how their school compares with others. The convenient excuse, beloved by many educationists, that socio-economic factors rather than bad teaching explain children's poor performance, will soon be discredited. League tables will be able to show how schools that take five-year-olds of a similar ability are achieving widely different results by the time those children are seven or 11. That difference can then be laid solely at the door of the school.

Schools should not cosset children from the reality of success and failure. Testing helps teachers to discover how much children have learnt. It enables schools to offer equality of opportunity for the brightest and the less able. Equality of opportunity does not mean treating every child the same, but as Iain Macleod said, "equal opportunity to be unequal".

WHALING WALL

The Makah do not have a 'special case' for hunting

What would happen if the peoples of every nation were licensed to practise their ancestral habits? Danes would take boat trips to Scotland to rape and pillage. Londoners would create traffic havoc by driving sheep across Tower Bridge. And President Clinton would be expected to exercise droit de signeur over all internees. The world would mill in a state of social tumult similar to that which will be seen in microcosm next month when, in an extreme northwestern outpost of the United States, members of the Makah nation take to the seas for a whaling expedition amid flotillas of irate conservationists.

The history of the Makah tribe, now numbering some 18,000 members and mainly confined to the remote Neah Bay area of Washington State, is steeped in epic tales of whale hunts. Whale flesh was once a staple of Makah diet and, when their tribal lands were expropriated in 1855, elders signed a treaty with the Government providing for the continuance of ancestral customs. Shortly afterwards, however, finding commercial sealing more lucrative, they almost abandoned whaling. And since then, as cetacean populations dropped to dangerous levels, America became a signatory to the 1946 International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW).

The ICRW still allocates a whaling quota to indigenous communities whose subsistence or culture depend on it. Russian Inuits can kill 140 grey whale a year. But the British Government, along with most other signatories to the ICRW, does not consider the Makah to hold a valid claim. More than 70 years have elapsed since their last whale hunt. Only a handful of elders can recall it, and even fewer can remember traditional recipes for whale meat. When a whale drowned accidentally in Makah nets a few years ago, most of the flesh was dumped.

The gray whale, which the Makah are now intending to hunt, was almost extinct by the end of last century. Its removal from the endangered species list five years ago bears testament to rigorous conservation efforts. Yet the future of this cetacean is still insecure. Of the three lagoons off the Mexican coast where it gives birth, two are already disrupted by the Mitsubishi company's industrial-scale salt production and the third is now threatened. The whale's migratory routes up the West Coast are imperilled by heavy shipping, oil exploration and seismic testing.

The Makah people appear willing to adapt to the modern world when it suits them. Next month, rifles and motorised boats rather than traditional techniques will be used to hunt the gray whale. The US Government should capitalise on this willingness by encouraging their plans to invest in aquaculture. This sidestepping of the ICRW sets a dangerous precedent, without compelling justification for doing so.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Battle to keep the news at ten

From Mr Robert Hargreaves

Sir, Your reports of September 2 and 3 [see also Media Times, September 4] on the ITV companies' plan to move *News at Ten* are correct in stating that the current Broadcasting Act does not specify any particular time for news to be transmitted. But that is by no means the whole story.

Most ITV companies made a clear promise in their licence applications to continue with *News at Ten*. Many of us suspected at the time that this was no more than a cynical ploy to get the applications through the quality threshold of the Independent Television Commission (ITC) and that once the companies' licences were safely in the bag they would feel free to discard it. That is one of the reasons why the bidders' own commitments were subsequently written into the licence issued to each of them — commitments which can only be varied with the consent of the ITC.

It is to be hoped the current members of that body will be as stalwart as their predecessors in resisting this attempt to marginalise Britain's longest-running and most successful news programme, on which many millions of viewers have come to rely for a balanced and impartial account of national and world events.

To carry no news whatever during the main part of the evening would be to surrender any claims ITV still has to be taken seriously as a public service broadcaster.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT HARGREAVES
(ITN correspondent, 1962-80; IBA/ITC Deputy Director of Programmes, 1984-93),
Backfield Place, Rectory Lane,
Winchelsea, East Sussex TN36 4AB.
September 3.

From Mr Nicholas Sercombe

Sir, The debate about the removal of *News at Ten* from the weekday schedule is farcical.

Does anybody complain about the lack of this programme at the weekends? Apart from the politicians, who benefits from having a news programme scheduled at 10pm anyway?

The answer is nobody, because the evening is already full of news programmes: BBC1 at 9pm, Channel 4 at 7pm. Viewers have the choice of additional news programmes on Channel 5, Sky 1 and CNN. With the advent of digital TV there will be even more access to news and current affairs programmes.

The scheduling of news programmes should be left to schedulers.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS SERCOMBE
(Managing Director),
Screen Machine,
78 Duke Street, W1M 5DQ.
September 3.

From Mr Christopher Scholfield

Sir, The claim by Mr Richard Eyre, ITV's chief executive, that the main news has to be moved to "the real battlefield for viewers — the early evening" (report, September 3) really goes to prove Tony Blair's point when he says he is concerned that ITV does not drift further downmarket.

How many of this country's decision-makers and wealth creators are regularly in front of their television sets by 6.30pm? The people who watch programmes at this time are, I believe, those who react best to advertisements and that is the sole reason for the proposed change.

Television news is poor compared with radio at the best of times. Does it have to deteriorate further?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER SCHOLFIELD,
Scotsdene, Hill Road,
Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2JN.
jujools@aol.com
September 3.

From Sir Paul Fox

Sir, The proposal to move *News at Ten* to 6.30pm may conform with the letter of the promises made by ITV companies like Granada and Carlton to maintain a major news programme in peak time (6pm to 10.30pm) but scarcely with its spirit. Sadly, the ITV companies are following the American networks, which have more or less abandoned serious news coverage and shunted the major news programmes to the wings.

What will the ITC now do about the popular regional news programmes currently scheduled at 6.30pm and 10.30pm?

Yours sincerely,
PAUL FOX
(Managing Director,
Yorkshire Television, 1973-85),
c/o 10 Charterhouse Square,
London EC1M 6LQ.
September 2.

Name of the beasties

From Mr Nick Alexander

Sir, "Midge" or "midgie" (report, "Scots get the bug after a record midge season", August 29)? Surely an academic point, since they never appear in the singular? As with Visigoths, the smallest known grouping is the horde. In the plural the words are near enough the same.

Yours sincerely,
NICK ALEXANDER,
3 West Hatton,
Kirknewton, Midlothian EH27 8DZ.
September 4.

Spirit at the heart of the millennium

From the Reverend Stephen Lynas, Archbishops' Officer for the Millennium

Sir, Your correspondent Nicholas Jenkins (letter, August 29) suggests that the millennium is a "unique opportunity" for the various Christian traditions to work together.

We have been doing precisely that for more than three years. Indeed, it is arguable that without the united pressure of all the Christian denominations, there would be no "Spirit Zone" at the Dome, and precious little recognition of the true nature of this remarkable anniversary.

All the signs are that Anglicans, Baptists, Evangelicals, Methodists, Roman Catholics and others are determined to work together on millennium matters wherever possible. The planned "Millennium Moment", with the gift of a candle and the Millennium Resolution for New Year's Eve 1999 is a joint operation, as will be hundreds of festival events on Pentecost Sunday (June 11, 2000). The "New Start" concept and logo are, again, something all the churches can use.

When it comes to the Dome, the churches have spoken with one voice to Government and the New Millennium Experience Company. Questions of sponsorship are for the company to resolve: but on the basic requirement for some sensible religious content to the zone there has been remarkable unanimity.

While we all await news of the detailed designs for the Dome, I suggest that regular churchgoers focus their attention on what their own churches will be doing to remind people of Jesus of Nazareth, whose anniversary this is.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN LYNAS
(Churches Together in England Millennium Officer),
Millennium Office, Church House,
Great Smith Street, SW1P 3NZ.
millennium@mission.u-net.com
September 2.

From Dr Phillip Gething

Sir, The Church of England plans to celebrate the millennium by floodlighting many churches for several months at a cost of nearly £5 million, helped by a £2 million grant from the National Lottery. This sounds like an awful lot of kilowatt hours.

As a practising Christian who fitted low-energy lightbulbs in my house several years ago, I feel my efforts to save the world are being undone by this insensitive scheme. Is it too late to hope it could be abandoned, or at least cut down greatly in scope, in order to release funds for a more cerebral and appropriate form of display in the Dome?

Yours faithfully,
PHILLIP GETHING,
26 Dukes Mead,
Fleet, Hampshire GU13 8HE.
September 3.

From the Reverend Hugh Hanley

Sir, Victor Toubi (letter, September 1) suggests that the Spirit Zone should simply list the "invasions, wars, uprisings and pogroms" caused by organised religion. While God has often been misused in this way, only a small percentage of conflicts have been instigated in his name. More have been avoided, and oppressors overthrown because of a common faith.

Wars are usually caused by previous wars. When peoples are invaded, often the only thing that stops them being obliterated is their religion. This gives the focus for future resistance.

Like Mr Toubi, I would advocate "individual belief in a higher God", but when this is not linked to others, it can lead to the kind of delusion that causes leaders to declare war in the name of their false Gods.

Yours etc,
HUGH HANLEY SJC,
St Joseph's,
Malpas, Cheshire SY14 7DD.
September 2.

Snowdon purchase

From Mr Paddy Buckley

Sir, Common sense at last on the campaign to "save" Snowdon. Simon Jenkins's warning ("The peak of folly", August 29) that the proposed purchase by the National Trust of 4,000 acres in Snowdonia would set a dangerous precedent should be heeded.

I have been exploring those same Welsh hills for over fifty years, and have observed a gradual deterioration of much of the farmland; little or no maintenance of upland drainage, the encroachment of bracken and rush, land semi-derelict with rhododendrons creeping over the lower slopes. If there were no subsidy for the sheep, parts of it would be worthless.

The National Trust should stay out of this sale and devote its energy and its £3.5 million to other, more urgent, causes.

Yours sincerely,
PADDY BUCKLEY,
5 Lonsdale Avenue,
Torrisholme, Morecambe,
Lancashire LA4 6RX.
john.buckley@which.net
September 1.

From Mrs Angela Kelly

Sir, It was heartening to read Simon Jenkins so forthrightly condemning the proliferation of inefficient commercial wind "farms".

The UK requires on average a constant, reliable 43,000 MW of electricity. The "best" recorded output to date (1995) of the 24-turbine wind farm at Cemmaes, near Machynlleth in Powys, has been an average intermittent, unreliable, uncontrollable 1.8 MW. The price has been the ruination of one of the most beautiful vistas in Mid Wales and bridleways being rendered unusable or at best unsafe.

Near by, at Carno, reputedly the biggest wind farm in Europe spreads over an area of nearly 1,500 acres of upland and is criss-crossed with 12 kilometres of new service roads. Each of the 56 turbines needs a foundation with enough concrete to fill a municipal swimming pool.

It produces an average unpredictable 10 MW of electricity. Twenty-four kilometres of new overhead line (across previously uncluttered countryside) delivers this tiny trickle of electricity to the National Grid.

Yours faithfully,
ANGELA KELLY,
Cross House,
Llandeilo Graban,
Builth Wells, Powys LD2 3YX.
August 31.

From Mr Ian S. Burge

Sir, I was about to send £20 to the National Trust for the purchase of Snowdon, until I read Simon Jenkins.

Now I shall send it to the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (CPRW) which for years has opposed wind farms because of their devastating scenic impact on our landscape.

To its credit CPRW is, as far as I know, the only major Welsh conservation or pressure group to have stood out against them. It is 70 years old and may seem to have been as much use as Don Quixote, but it is far more deserving of my £20 than the National Trust.

Yours sincerely,
IAN S. BURGE,
Glen Usk, Llanhennock,
Caerleon, Newport,
Monmouthshire NP6 1LU.
August 31.

Cenotaph wreaths

From Ms C. Christie

Sir, I suggest that the annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph would benefit if the number of people entitled to lay individual wreaths was to be pruned. For instance, could not the House of Commons representation be confined to the Speaker of the House and the Prime Minister?

Yours faithfully,
CLEONE CHRISTIE,
23 Thamesfield Court,
Wargrave Road, Henley on Thames,
Oxfordshire RG9 2ND.
September 4.

Bunkered at outset

From Mr J. A. Bird

Sir, Ladies are quite capable of patronising behaviour on the golf course [letters, August 25; September 1, 2, 3].

One recently marched across from an adjoining fairway to advise me that my shirt "clashed" with my trousers, and that I should not again play in that combination of garments.

Any subsequent decline in my standard of play is, of course, solely attributable to this humiliation.

Yours faithfully,
JOS BIRD,
30 Crown Street,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 1QU.
September 2.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Leylandii uses

From Eur Ing Stuart Dryden

Sir, In defence of *Cupressus leylandii*, Mr Christopher Purser (letter, September 3; see also letters, August 29) writes that their dense foliage deadens noise. However, the noise reduction afforded by vegetation is not as great as is commonly believed.

A three metre-deep belt of dense vegetation can provide a noticeable reduction in noise, but a wall or acoustic fence would result in a much greater attenuation. Moreover, increasing the depth of the vegetation does not necessarily result in a proportionate reduction in noise.

The visual appearance of the more effective noise barriers can be improved by planting against them, or by using the willow wall technique, whereby an earth bank is clad with woven willow stems to produce foliage and a wildlife habitat.

Despite the above technical findings, it may be that the visual screening of a noise source results in the perception that the noise level has been reduced.

Whether this justifies "a few rows of *leylandii*", as Mr Purser suggests, is a topic which may yet be debated at future public inquiries if control of these plants is brought within the relevant legislation.

Yours faithfully,
STUART DRYDEN
(Acoustics consultant),
Hawthorns,
Ham Lane, Aston,
Oxfordshire OX18 2DE.
September 3.

Modern manners the Morgan way

From Mr Edward Thomas

Sir, I suspect that the Venerable Martin Draper, Archdeacon of France (letter, September 1), misunderstands the purpose of John Morgan's weekly "Modern Manners" in your Weekend section — which is surely to ensure that historians 100 years hence can unearth the quaintness of former times.

While recently researching the history of the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, I discovered a review of a play staged at the theatre in October 1907. The critic employed by the *Eastbourne Gazette* observed:

The indifferent manners of some of the minor men in the play call for some remark. They are enough to harrow one's artistic soul. Thus the detective always takes his walking stick with him when he enters a drawing room, the butler never looks at the person he is addressing, and — *mirabile visu!* — we behold the astonishing spectacle of a gentleman invited out to an evening of bridge, wearing a black tail dress coat, a white waistcoat and a *black* tie! I earnestly beg the gentlemen who undertake these impersonations to buy and study carefully a little shilling book entitled *Manners For Men*.

Surely the archdeacon does not wish to deprive a future historian of a good laugh by clipping John Morgan's wings.

Yours truly,
EDWARD THOMAS,
Flat 4,
21 Jevington Gardens,
Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 4HR.
September 1.

From Dr A. M. Plumptre

Sir, Could the Archdeacon of France be mistaken?

There are three ways to hold a knife: like a motorcycle handlebar, like a pen, or with handle in the palm of the hand and index finger on the knife blade, close to the handle.

The first of these is vulgar, the second is common and the third is correct. Likewise, the position of the knife and fork when not in use should be on the plate, to prevent gravy from running off them on to a tablecloth.

As one learns from childhood to eat with lips closed, in like manner one learns to hold cutlery so as not to give offence to anyone.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN PLUMPTRE,
Ragdon Cottage,
Ragdon, Church Stretton,
Shropshire SY6 7EY.
September 1.

From Mr Geoffrey H. Lloyd

Sir, Every Saturday breakfast I go straight to John Morgan's column for its pure entertainment value. Each week has me wondering what sort of people could send him such laughable humbug.

If his column is genuine may I pose some questions. From whom does he derive his authority to lecture us on the sort of bizarre issues neatly quoted in Martin Draper's letter? Where on our planet do the people live who take him seriously? Are there many of them? Is there any risk that I may meet them?

I urge them not to invite me to dinner.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY H. LLOYD,
Longacre, 73 High Street,
Little Wilbraham,
Cambridge CB1 5JY.
September 2.

Music matters

From Mr Humphrey Burton

Sir, In the three decades when I worked at the BBC, to be a controller was to make policy for a broadcasting channel. Fat or thin, the controller decided what went out on the airwaves.

Candidates are currently being interviewed for the post of Controller, Radio 3, but Richard Morrison (article, Arts, August 28) tells us the decision has already been made that *Music Matters*, Radio 3's weekly magazine, will soon be dropped.

This strikes me as a disastrous move: *Music Matters* is lively, broad-based and altogether the most successful and authoritative programme of its kind since the old *Music Magazine* edited by Anna Instone and Julian Herbage in the 1950s.

But my point is this: who would want to be a controller when such vital policy matters (I'm sure going against the wishes of the musical public) have already been taken?

I hope the successful candidate will extract a guarantee of editorial independence and that the BBC will reconsider its decision forthwith.

Music matters: it really does.

Yours sincerely,
HUMPHREY BURTON,
123 Oakwood Court,
Abbotsbury Road, W14 8LA.
September 1.

Rained off

From Mr Rupert Godfrey

Sir, What a wet excuse, for clothing company Monsoon to blame poor trading on "dire weather conditions" (Business, September 3).

Yours faithfully,
R. D. GODFREY,
Freedown, Ash Farm,
Stourpaine, Blandford Forum,
Dorset DT11 8PW.
September 3.

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 4: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by the Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton (Baroness in Waiting) at the Funeral of the Very Reverend Dr Edward Carpenter (a former Dean of Westminster) which was held in Westminster Abbey this morning.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Rear-Admiral David Macey.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 4: The Duke of York this afternoon presented the prizes at the Stowe Putter golf competition at Stowe School and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire (Sir Nigel Mobbs).

School news

Epsom College
The Michaelmas Term begins on Sunday, September 6, with 670 pupils at the College. We welcome the third year of girls starting at 13, and the College is now co-educational in every year group. Mr Norman Rice takes over as Deputy Head on the retirement of Mr John Potter, Mr Neil Laing becomes *Senior Master*, and *Mr Rob Worrall* becomes Registrar. A classroom block for the Economics, Geography and History *Departments will be built during* this academic year, on a site next to Crawfurd House, with an extension to Crawfurd House. The Information Technology and Chemistry Departments have been enlarged in the holidays. The hockey team returned from a tour of South Africa, and the rugby team from a short tour of Ireland. The Head of School for the term will be Christopher Mattey. The Old Epsomian Dinner will be held at the College on Saturday, October 24.

Heathfield School, Ascot
Term begins today at Heathfield with Pilar Perry as Head Girl and Victoria Fitzwilliams as Deputy Head Girl. A Major Academic Scholarship for 'A' Level studies has been awarded to Sophia Butler-Cowdry. The VIth Form Art Scholars are Celina Teague and *Vorachat Bunthuwong*. A *VIth* Form Mathematics/Science Exhibition has been awarded to Vipa Sarakitprija. An Exhibition for progress in the VIth Form and Art has been awarded to Jee Young Choi. An Academic Scholarship on entry to Form I has been awarded to Victoria Brudenell (Cameron House, London).
Assessment Day for September 1999 entrants will take place on Saturday, October 17. Further details may be obtained from the Registrar (01344/882955). Enquiries for entry to the Sixth Form for 'A' Level studies in 1999 should *also be made to the Registrar*.
There will be performances in school of *School for Scandal* on November 18, 19, 20 and 21, at 7.45pm. St Nicholas' Stalls will be held in the Sports Hall on Saturday, November 28, from 1.30pm. Parents, Old Girls and friends of the school are very welcome to attend.
Heathfield's Centenary falls on *May 9, 1999, and various events* will be held to mark the occasion. Centenary Fellowship Day will be on Saturday, May 15, 1999, and invitations to purchase tickets for the day will be sent out to all Old Girls.

King's Bruton
Term starts at King's School on Monday, September 7. Mr Martin Marriott succeeds Mr Henry Hobhouse as Senior Warden and Mr Nick Evelyn is the Junior Warden. Mr Christopher Martin and Mrs Maureen Willson join the Governing Body. Mrs Suzie Cox takes over as Housemistress of Wellesley House. James Spinney (ex Forres Sandle Manor and Purbeck School, Wareham) is Head of School. The work on the new Science Laboratories and the Millennium Circle has started and building is planned to be completed by August 1999. An Open Day will be held on Saturday, October 3.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.E.M. Boote and Miss S.L.C. Nix
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr Gervase Boote, of London, and of *Mrs Christopher Ellis, of* Staffordshire, and Samantha, daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Ashburner Nix, of London.

Mr J.P. Healy and Miss M.M. Bulkley
The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs Philip Healy, of Lewes, Sussex, and Melissa, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Bulkley, of Lymington, Hampshire.

Mr I.F. Jackson and Miss A-A. Richardson
The engagement is announced between Iain Francis, son of Mr and Mrs Douglas Jackson, of Oxford, and Alice-Anne, daughter of Dr and Mrs Anthony Richardson, of Kilkenny, Eire.

Mr D.L. Pickett and Mrs S. Morley-Fletcher
The engagement is announced between David Leslie Pickett, of Ruislip, and Susan Morley-Fletcher, of Chelsea.

Mr S.J. Richards and Miss A-M. Percy
The engagement is announced between Scott, only son of Mr and Mrs A.W. Richards, of Finchley, North London, and Anna, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs M.V. Percy, of Worcester Park, Surrey.

Mr M.R.J. Scragg and Miss M. Braam
The engagement is announced between Max, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Tom Scragg, of Barnston, Wirral, and Milja, daughter of Mr and Mrs Wabe Braam, of Drachten, Friesland, The Netherlands.

Mr A.J. Spence and Miss F.E. Roberts
The engagement is announced between Alastair James, younger son of Professor and Mrs David Spence, of Old Headington, Oxford, and Frances Emma, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Clive Roberts, of Neath, Wales.

Captain G.P. Wilkinson and Miss T.J. Membury
The engagement is announced between Captain Gary Wilkinson, Royal Horse Artillery, son of Mr and Mrs D.J. Wilkinson, of Leeds, Yorkshire, and Teri, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs F.G. Membury, of Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

Birthdays

TODAY: Dr Aileen Adams, anaesthetist, 75; Lord Alexander of Weedon, QC, 62; Mr Malcolm Allison, football manager, 61; Miss Meg Beresford, former general secretary, *CND, 61; Viscount Chilston*, 52; Mr Dick Clement, scriptwriter, 61; Major-General Dr G.O. Cowan, former president, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, 59; Miss Tracy Edwards, yachtswoman, 36; Sir Robin Fearn, former diplomat, 64; Dr David Fussey, Vice-Chancellor, Greenwich University, 55; Mr David Graham, former Chief Constable, Cheshire, 65; Dame Elizabeth Hedley-Miller, former civil servant, 75; Professor Julian Hunt, FRS, former chief executive, Meteorological Office, 57; Sir Francis Loyd, former colonial officer, 82; Mr Kevin McNamara, MP, 64; Mrs Doreen Massey, former director, Family Planning Association, 60; Lord Justice Mummery, 60; Canon Lord Pilkington of Oxenford, 65; Miss Jean Rankine, former deputy director, British Museum, 57; Mr G.W. Tremlett, author, 59; Sir Denys Wilkinson, FRS, former Vice-Chancellor, Sussex University, 76.

TOMORROW: The Right Rev John Bickersteth, former Bishop of Bath and Wells, 77; Mr B.G. Booth, Vice-Chancellor, University of Central *Lancashire*, 56; *Mr Sherban* Cantacuzino, former secretary, Royal Fine Art Commission, 70; Sir Derman Christopherson, FRS, former Vice-Chancellor, Durham University, 83; Mr Tim Henman, tennis player, 24; Sir Andrew Hugh Smith, former chairman, London Stock Exchange, 67; Sir John Johnson, former chairman, Countryside Commission and former diplomat, 68; Mr Roger Knight, secretary, MCC, 52; Mr Roger Law, satirist and puppeteer, 57; Sir Colin McColl, former diplomat, 66; Mr George Mann, former chairman, TCCB, 81; Miss Monica Mason, ballerina, 57; Lord O'Hagan, 53; Sir Peter Pain, former High Court judge, 85; Mr Greg Rusedski, tennis player, 25; Sir James Stubblefield, FRS, geologist, 97; Mr J.R.C. Young, former rugby player and former chief executive, Securities and Investments Board, 61.

The last word in shopping

Russell Jenkins explains why Britain's most magnificent mall will also be its final one

THE £600 million Trafford Centre, which opens for business next Thursday, is the most extravagantly romantic example of the late-20th-century phenomenon, the out-of-town shopping centre — and the last.

Thirty million shoppers a year are expected to spend £13 billion in its three miles of shops along marble and granite boulevards decorated with Neo-Classical friezes and embalmed tropical palm trees.

Its creator, Peel Holdings, is convinced they will be drawn to the complex, off the M60 four miles west of Manchester, because it turns shopping into a Disneyesque, filmic adventure.

Visitors enter the "shopping, restaurant and leisure city" under a row of lifesize, Neo-Classical figures into a food hall so vast, lavish, diverse and exotic that it would dwarf the Albert Hall.

This area, known as the Orient, gives the impression of an arrival by ocean-going



liner. The passenger, with bulging wallet, steps off the liner to lighten it in themed restaurants from six destinations around the world.

This confection, which resembles a series of elaborate film sets, will take the visitor from New York's Grand Central Station, to turn-of-the-century Bourbon Street, New Orleans, a Moroccan souk, Egypt, Venice and China.

The ceiling is an astrologically correct sky with 28,000 stars which can change in 20 minutes from dawn to day to night. The idea came from Caesar's Palace casino, Las Vegas, but Trafford's is eight times the size.

Downstairs, the mock deck of the fantasy-going liner is the centrepiece of the food hall which can become at night a 2,500-seat auditorium.

A giant screen beams video images from the poop deck of the liner. A water feature, with built-in waves, resembles the kind of swimming pool you would find on the *QE2*.

Beyond the restaurants there is an 18-lane tenpin bowling alley, a virtual reality games hall and old-fashioned dodgem cars.

Up a staircase lined with marbled Corinthian pillars decorated with gold leaf is a multiplex cinema: it is Europe's largest. It sits under the complex's central dome, which, the PR managers point out, is bigger than St Paul's.

The visitor escapes the clinging bougainvillea of the New Orleans Latin Quarter into the bright daylight of the Regent Crescent, where designer outlets like Tommy Hilfiger vie for some of the one million square feet of retail space with Debenhams, Boots, Bhs, C&A and the only Selfridges outside London.

"The palm trees are all real," said one executive proudly. "They suck out the moisture and replace it with embalming fluid just as the Egyptians did with bodies; ditto with the leaves."

Ancient Egyptians would also feel equally at home with the statues of pharaohs, muses, in Neo-Classical style, which decorate the columns.

At the end of the retail boulevards, the "festival village", set in a Mediterranean fantasy land, has arts and crafts outlets, a post office, children's play area, a crèche, storytellers and other children's entertainers.

There is a 60-bed hotel within the complex and planning permission for a 150-bed hotel across the road. It will be built beside a massive 150-acre regional sports complex. This is no ordinary out-of-town shopping centre; it is the last, the biggest, the most gaudily *fin de siècle* example of its type.

The shopping centre as theme park, appealing to all sexes and ages, is the key to the Trafford Centre's marketing policy. There are 5.3 million people within a 45-minute drive. But the centre managers want custom from beyond Birmingham or Newcastle and see the centre as a a tourist destination.

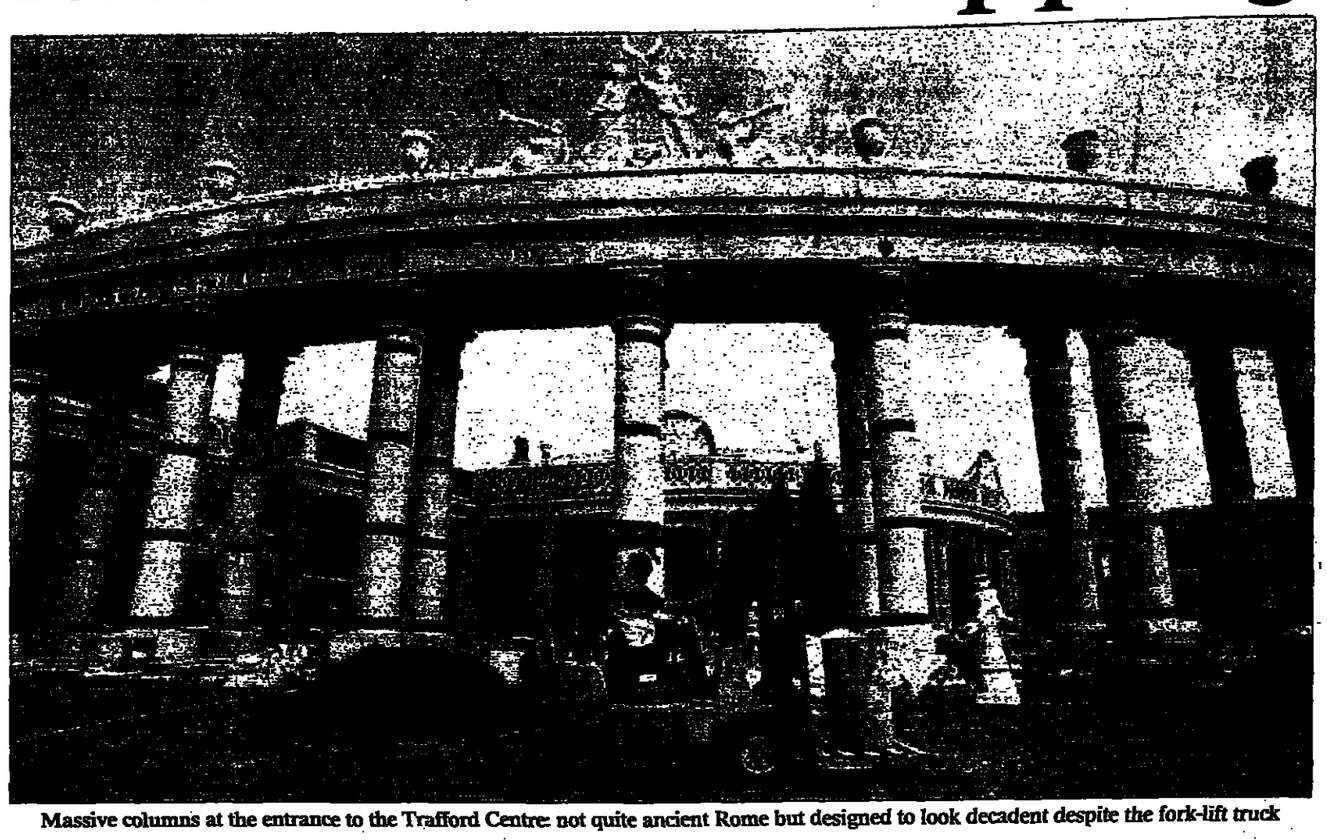
Mike Butterworth, managing director, was one of a number of executives who toured the world's retail centres from Hong Kong to Las Vegas cherry-picking ideas.

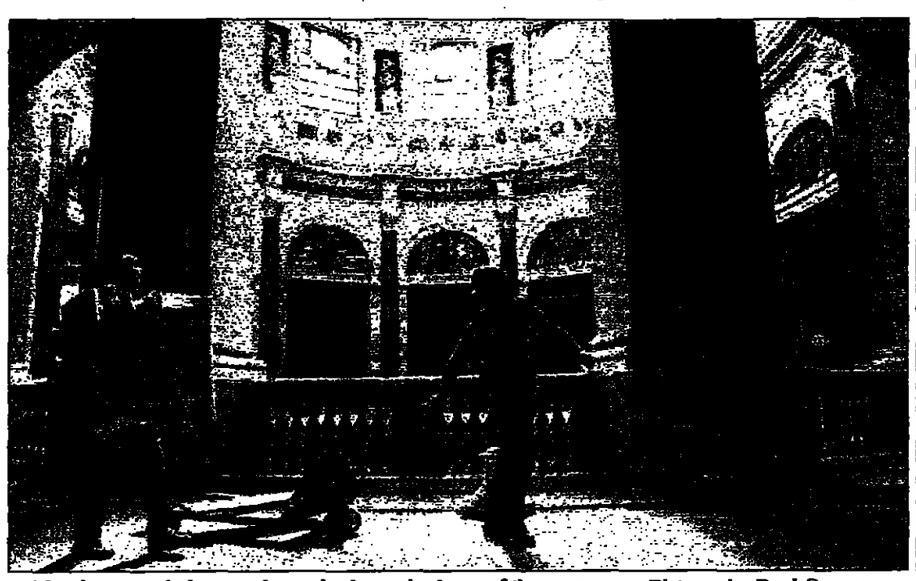
"I think people will be absolutely knocked out by it. I am only slightly concerned, they will be too busy standing with their mouths open to spend some money."

Meanwhile, its sheer size has brought problems; an exhaustive planning inquiry and screams of horror from urban shopping centres and local authorities in nearby towns and cities.

There are also well-founded fears of motorway gridlocks stretching back to the Midlands, Cumbria and Yorkshire. Even the centre management admits that Thursday's launch will bring appalling traffic problems.

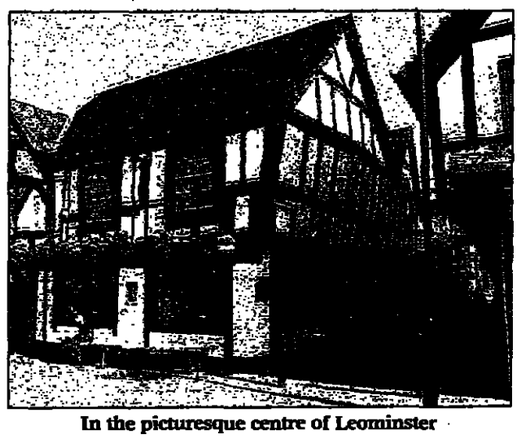
It is likely to be the last, as well as the most extravagant of its kind. Governments have turned against the out-of-town shopping centre but it is probably too late. We are all Lakesiders now.


Massive columns at the entrance to the Trafford Centre: not quite ancient Rome but designed to look decadent despite the fork-lift truck


Nearing completion: workmen in the main dome of the centre

Pictures by Paul Cousans


Cleaning up the embalmed palm trees


In the picturesque centre of Leominster

Town that took on the supermarkets

BY NICK NUTTALL AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

THE Trafford Centre will be one of the last of the mega out-of-town shopping centres in Britain.

Twenty-two years after the opening of Brent Cross in North London marked the birth of the British out-of-town shopping mall, only two big schemes are in preparation: Bluewater in Kent and Brayhead near Glasgow.

Their death knell was sounded when John Gummer, an Environment Secretary in the last Government, tightened up planning rules.

Out-of-town shopping centres were said to be killing traditional high streets and increasing car journeys, congestion, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

The new rules have also put the brake on out-of-town supermarkets and retail warehouse parks where DIY, electrical and heavy goods chains get together.

Local attempts to counter out-of-town shopping have been only partial successes.

Three years ago the Chamber of Trade in Leominster, Herefordshire, launched a loyalty card scheme to try to keep customers after Safeway set up a superstore half a mile out of town.

"The scheme was a success at first, with about 100 shops offering discounts and special offers to people with the card," Patrick Broadhurst, the town centre manager, said. "This lasted for about a year and trade did increase, but then it tailed off and only 30 to 40 retailers are still taking part. The main trouble was confusion about what cardholders were entitled to expect, with deals varying from trader to trader."

Funeral service

The Rev Dr Edward Carpenter
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton at the funeral of the Rev Dr Edward Carpenter, Dean of Westminster, 1974-85, held yesterday in Westminster Abbey. The Prince of Wales was represented by *Rear-Admiral David Macey*. The Archbishop of Canterbury was represented by the Right Rev Frank Sargeant and the Speaker by Mr Nicolas Bevan.

The Dean officiated, assisted by the Precentor, The Rev Julian Reindorp, Vicar of St Mary Magdalene, Richmond, said prayers. Mr Paul Carpenter, son, read the lesson and Mrs Carpenter, widow, read from Shelley's *Prometheus Unbound*. Canon Dr Anthony Harvey, Sub-Dean, gave an address.

Canon Dr Donald Gray, Rector of St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, was robed and seated in the Sacrarium. The Right Rev Lord Runcie, the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, the Right Rev Edward Knapp-Fisher, the Right Rev John Austin Baker, the Right Rev Michael Marshall, the Very Rev Michael Mayne, the Very Rev Trevor Beeson, the Rev Michael Thompson, the Rev Willie Booth, the Rev Dr Benjamin Sparks, Monsignor George Stack, the Rev Irvine Vincent, representing the Superintendent Minister, Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, Canon Charles Taylor and Rabbi Julian Jacobs were robed and seated in the Lantern. The Deputy Lord Mayor of Westminster attended. Among others present were:
Mr and Mrs David Carpenter, Mr and Mrs Michael Carpenter (sons and *daughters-in-law*), Professor and Mrs David Piachaud (son-in-law and daughter), Mrs Millie Carpenter (sister-in-law), Mr and Mrs John Carpenter, Mr and Mrs Richard Carpenter and other members of the family.
The Duke of Norfolk, Anne Countess Attlee, Mrs John Baker, Mrs Edward Knapp-Fisher, Mrs Frank Sargeant, Mr Jeremy Thorpe, Lady Felicity Harwood, the Hon Nicholas Assheton (representing the Corporation of Church House), Sir Hugh and Lady Cubitt, Lady Milner-Barry, the Rev Sir Derek Pattinson, Lady Pullen, Group Captain Sir Gordon Pirie, Lieutenant-General Sir Alan Reay, Sir Sigmund and Lady Sternberg, Sir William van Straubenzee, Sir Paul and Lady Wright, Mr Richard and Lady Alison Davis.
Mr William Allen, Mr Matthew Arnold, Professor Norman Ashton, FRS, the Rev M F Baker, Mr Michael Baughan, Prebendary M H V Bowles, Mrs Norman Buller, Mr and Mrs Colin Campbell, Father David Campbell, the Rev Michael Campling, Canon and Mrs Keith Carchpole, Mr and Mrs Jim Coggan, Mr and Mrs Denis Doble, the Rev William Elliott, Mrs Jennifer Francis, the Rev and Mrs Jonathan Goodall, Mrs Peter Graves, Mrs Joyce Gray, Brigadier T I G Gray, Mrs B Hall, Professor Ian Hall, Mr Richard Hall, Mrs Patricia Hall, the Rev Nicholas Henderson, Mr and Mrs S C Holmes, Mrs Brian Howe, Mr Michael Keall, Mrs Michael Mayne, Mr Colin Petersen, Prebendary Francois Plachaud, Mr Simon Preston.
Dr and Mrs John Rae, Rabbi John Rayner, Canon James Richardson, the Rev John Robson, Mr Rodney Scrase, the Rev Charles Sinnickson, Mr and Mrs Eddie Smith, Canon Roger Job, Mr Tristram Jones-Parry, the Rev N J Kelly, Mr and Mrs Edward Kelly, Mr Frank King, *Mrs Gillian Law, the Rev Dr and* Mrs I Levy, the Rev Christopher Ludlow, Miss Madeline McLauchlan, Professor Anthony Mellows, Dr Richard Mortimer, Mr Michael Moss, Mr Simon Over, Mr Roger Overend, Mrs Pauline Summerscale, Miss Catherine Taylor, Miss Benedict Taylor, Mr and Mrs K M Taylor, the Rev Simon Tebbutt, the Rev Richard Truss, Mr and Mrs Francis Tullo, the Rev John Vine, Mrs Michael Warr, Mr and Mrs Tom Whipham, Mr N J White, Mr Timothy Woolford, Mr Geoffrey Wright, Miss Christine Zochonis.
Representatives of The Order of the Bath, Holy Trinity Church, Marylebone, Richmond PCC, Choir Benevolent Fund, Peace Pagoda, Barnes Park, St John's Hospital, Guild of St Bride, the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is, World Congress of Faiths, Old Strodians' Association, Camden School for Girls, the Governors, North London Collegiate School, London Society of Jews and Christians, the Council of Christians and Jews, the Joint Educational Trust, English Heritage: the Chapter House, the Dickens Fellowship, the Edward Thomas Fellowship, the Byron Society and the International Byron Societies, the City Glee Club, the Johnson Society of London, Chelsea Football Club and many other friends.

Royal engagements

TODAY: The Duke of Edinburgh, as patron, will open the Scottish Caravan Club Rally at Ballater, Aberdeenshire, at 10.30.

Marriage

Mr E.R. Gibson-Watt and Miss A.P.N. Steele
The marriage took place yesterday at St Mary's Church, Cadogan Street, of Mr Edward Gibson-Watt, second son of the Hon Robin *and Mrs Gibson-Watt, of* Llandrindod Wells, Powys, to Miss Alexandra Steele, elder daughter of Mr Michael Steele, of Templecombe, Somerset, and Mrs Paula Steele, of London. Father Hugh Mackenzie and the Ven Wynford Rees officiated.
The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Olivia Galvin, Miss Phoebe Gibson-Watt, Miss Rebecca Goldschmidt, Miss Emily Hill, Miss Sophie Hobart, Miss Joanna Hobley, Miss Augusta Steele, the Hon Robert Biddulph, Christopher Balls and Charles Hirst.
Mr Nicholas Dawson was best man. A reception was held at St Stephen's Club and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Sir John Vernon Wills

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir John Vernon Wills, Bt, KCVO, TD, JP, FRICS, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the County of Somerset, will be held at Wells Cathedral, Somerset, on *Thursday, October 22, at 11.30am.*

ON THIS DAY

September 5, 1973

Author of The Lord of the Rings, *which with* The Hobbit *sold millions of copies and was translated into scores of languages, Professor J.R.R. Tolkien was a distinguished academic and inventor of a new mythology. This excerpt from his obituary sheds some light on his academic life.*

CREATOR OF THE HOBBIT

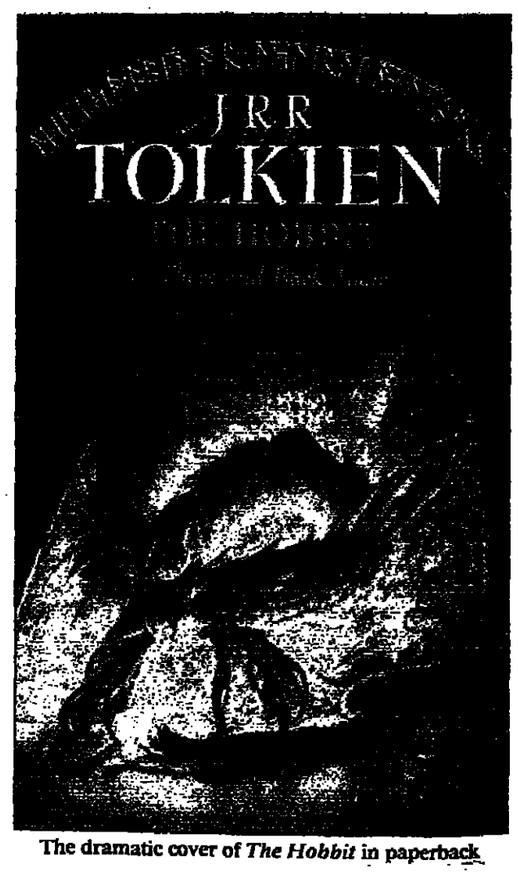
... During the years 1925-35 J.R.R. Tolkien was, more than any other single man, responsible for closing the old rift between "literature" and "philology" in English studies at Oxford and thus giving the existing school its characteristic temper. His unique insight at once into the language of poetry and into the poetry of language qualified him for this task. Thus the private language and its offshoot the private mythology, were directly connected with some of the most highly practical results he achieved, while they continued in private to burgeon into tales and poems which seldom reached print, though they might have won him fame in almost any period but the twentieth century.

The Hobbit (1937) was in origin a fragment from this cycle adapted for juvenile tastes but with one all important novelty, the Hobbits themselves. It is doubtful how far he realized that these comfort-loving, unambitious, and (in aspiration) unheroic creatures embodied what he loved best in the English character and saw most endangered by the growth of "subtopia", bureaucracy, journalism and industrialization. They soon demanded to be united with his heroic myth on a far deeper level than *The Hobbit* had allowed, and by 1936 he was at work on his great romance *The Lord of the Rings*, published in three volumes (1954 and 1955) and often reprinted and translated.

The ironic destiny which links the humble happiness of Hobbits to the decision of vast issues which they would gladly ignore, and which even makes civilization itself momentarily dependent on their latent and reluctant courage, is its central theme. It has no allegory. These things were not devised to reflect any particular *situation in the real* world. It was the other way round; real events began, horribly, to conform to the pattern he had freely invented. Hence those who heard the growing work read chapter by chapter in the months that followed the fall of France found it as relevant, as stern, and as tonic, as Churchill's promise of blood, sweat and tears. It cut right across all contemporary canons of criticism, and its success, when published, surprised and delighted the author and his friends ...

He was a man of "cronies" rather than of general society and was always best after midnight (he had a Johnsonian horror of going to bed) and in some small circle of intimates where the tone was at once Bohemian, literary, the Christian (for he was profoundly religious).

He has been described as "the best and worst talker in Oxford" — worst for the rapidity and indistinctness of his speech, and best for the penetration, learning, humour and "race" of what he said. L.C. Wrenn, R.B. McCallum of Pembroke, H.V.D. Dyson of Merton, C.S. Lewis of Magdalen, and Charles Williams were among those who most often made his audience (and interrupters) on such occasions ...



The dramatic cover of *The Hobbit* in paperback

هكذا من الاهرام

كلية أصول الدين

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM SIMPSON


Simpson: one of the last of the regimental bandsmen

William Simpson, Army Regimental Bandmaster, died from lung cancer on August 21 aged 61. He was born on November 6, 1936.

As well as being Regimental Bandmaster of the Royal Highland Fusiliers, Bill Simpson was one of the youngest British soldiers to have seen active service since the Second World War.

He was a senior media adviser for the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations in 1977, and director of music for the Royal Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland, organising bands for the Royal Highland Show for nearly twenty years.

William Simpson was born and brought up in a tenement in Glasgow's West End, long since swept away. He was educated at Hyndland Senior Secondary School, signing on with the Army in 1952.

He joined the 11th Hussars as a boy bandsman and soon after his basic training, still aged just 16, he was posted to Malaya during the Emergency. On his return he was awarded the campaign service medal, and was told it was one of the only boys' medals to have been issued during the conflict. Service at such a young age is never likely to be permitted again.

Three years after his return, he attended a course at the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall in Middlesex, where he perfected his skills on his chosen instrument, the French horn. Several postings followed throughout the United Kingdom before he left with the regiment for Hohne in Germany, by which time he had been promoted to corporal.

Simpson, who like his men was a trained medic, remained in Germany for six years until the 10th and 11th Hussars amalgamated to become the Royal Hussars. Senior officers had marked him out for his musical skills and leadership qualities, and he was invited to go back to Kneller Hall as a student bandmaster. He qualified in June 1971 and the following year was appointed Bandmaster of the 1st Battalion, Royal Highland Fusiliers in the rank of Warrant Officer, First Class.

Accompanied by his young family, he joined his new regiment in Singapore. Following a year of mainly ceremonial duties, they became the last British forces to leave the former colony, departing with an Anzac brigade of Australians and New Zealanders.

The family settled in Edinburgh, and the last six years of his army service was spent at Redford Barracks. On successive seasons he led his bandsmen proudly down Edinburgh Castle esplanade for the Military Tattoo, in which he was heavily involved as a musical organiser. He also took part in tours throughout Britain and Europe.

In 1977, during the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations, he advised the media on their cues during the televising of the events worldwide, as well as carrying out his professional duties as bandmaster.

During a tour of South Armagh, Simpson's base at Bessbrook Mill came under fire from an IRA mortar attack. He was blown off a fire escape but escaped serious injury.

His popularity among his fellow army musicians, many of whom he had taught, was demonstrated on his dining out night at Redford Barracks, as he prepared to leave the Army in 1979. Instead of remaining in the ante-room as they always had done previously, the regimental band marched around the dining table with miniature penguin bandmasters stuck to the ends of their instruments.

He was one of the last of his kind: since the formation of the Corps of Army Music in 1994, regimental bands have been consigned to history and replaced by divisional bands.

Back in civvy street, Simpson set up his own company, Castle Entertainments, organising Scottish nights for tourists and providing music and events at most hotels in and around Edinburgh. He also worked as a financial adviser.

For 20 years, he was director of music for the Royal Agricultural Society of Scotland and was a familiar figure at the Royal Highland Shows at Ingliston, where, he said, he was responsible for everything on two legs. A Highland dancing contest that he launched has become an annual event.

He faced the lung cancer which eventually killed him with typical spirit, declaring that to him it was "just another military operation".

He leaves his widow Peggy, their daughter and two sons.

JUNE PARKER



June Parker, librarian, climber and guidebook writer, died on August 18 aged 71. She was born on June 11, 1927.

OF THE hundreds of tourist guidebooks produced in the past few years, few have had such a profound influence on their subject as June Parker's *Walking in Mallorca*. The idea that one of the Balearics — known for sand, sea and sunshine — had anything to offer the mountain-lover would have been scoffed at two decades ago, but Parker's book changed the picture. It turned Majorca into a year-round holiday destination, since walking is best done out of the usual hot summer season, and in recognition of this breakthrough, the island's hoteliers held a celebratory dinner for Parker.

Margaret June Thorpe was born in Didsbury, Manchester, and educated at Southport High School for Girls and Liverpool University. There she studied dentistry for two years before finding she had no liking for it. She then became a librarian, eventually working at Lancaster University (where she graduated alongside her daughter). She was a longtime member of the Fell & Rock Climbing Club, and her job put her in charge of the club's valuable library, which is housed at the university.

She was a keen mountaineer not only on British hills, but also in the Alps, the Dolomites and in Corsica, but it was while walking the hills of Majorca in the early 1980s that she bemoaned the lack of a decent guidebook and was challenged by her companions to produce one. Never someone to duck a challenge, she set to work and the guide, published by Cicerone, the guidebook specialists, appeared in 1986. Sadly, the vast increase in visitors to the hills led some reactionary landlords to close paths, often illegally, and June Parker helped to organise the fight against this, gaining much support on the island.

A talented painter, she went on to write guides to walking in the Algarve, the Western Isles and the Lakeland fells.

She had survived a heart attack earlier in the year while in the Algarve and was awaiting a by-pass operation when she suffered another one.

She was married twice, to Freddie Farrington in 1948 and to Alan Parker in 1981. She is survived by her second husband and by five children and two stepchildren.

THE RIGHT REV FRANK COCKS

The Right Rev Frank ("Buff") Cocks, CB, former Bishop of Shrewsbury and Chaplain-in-Chief of the RAF, died on August 20 aged 84. He was born on November 5, 1913.

FRANK COCKS was a distinguished RAF padre during and after the Second World War who, during his six years as Chaplain-in-Chief, oversaw the building of a new generation of garrison churches. These included the new memorial chapel at the RAF College Cranwell, and the restoration of St Clement Danes in the Strand.

St Clement Danes, which had been gutted during the Blitz, was adopted as the RAF church in 1958, the year before Cocks became Chaplain-in-Chief, and was restored to its original Wren style during his time.

Frank Cocks had been assistant chaplain-in-chief for nine years before being promoted to the top post (which also carried the title of archdeacon and the RAF rank of air vice-marshal). The youngest-ever holder of the office, he occupied it for two three-year tours while rationalising and restructuring the chaplains' branch in preparation for the end of National Service and the return to an all-professional RAF. He had been appointed CB (military) on first becoming Chaplain-in-Chief in 1959.

Rejecting the option of remaining for a third term, Cocks retired from the RAF in 1965 to become — at the invitation of his first vicar (by this time Bishop of Lichfield) — rector and rural dean of Wolverhampton. This was a tough job, but Cocks once wryly commented that, after regularly struggling to capture the attention of bored young airmen, nothing thereafter seemed particularly daunting. His sangfroid was probably just as well, since at Wolverhampton he found himself in a position of some delicacy. He was the chairman of the local race relations committee at just the moment that Enoch Powell, a local Wolverhampton MP, delivered his notorious "rivers of blood" speech in April 1968.

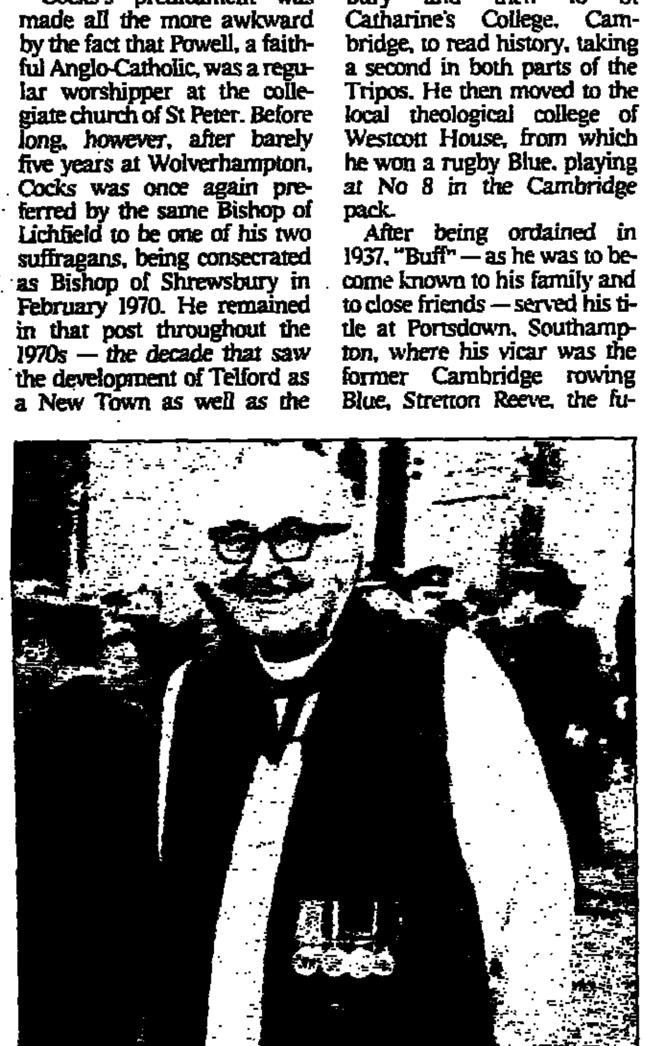
Cocks's predicament was made all the more awkward by the fact that Powell, a faithful Anglo-Catholic, was a regular worshipper at the collegiate church of St Peter. Before long, however, after barely five years at Wolverhampton, Cocks was once again preferred by the same Bishop of Lichfield to be one of his two suffragans, being consecrated as Bishop of Shrewsbury in February 1970. He remained in that post throughout the 1970s — the decade that saw the development of Telford as a New Town as well as the growth of group parishes in rural Shropshire. He finally retired in 1980.

Francis William Cocks was the son of Canon W. Cocks, who was vicar of Felixstowe for more than 40 years. The young Cocks went to Haileybury and then to St Catharine's College, Cambridge, to read history, taking a second in both parts of the Tripos. He then moved to the local theological college of Westcott House, from which he won a rugby Blue, playing at No 8 in the Cambridge pack.

After being ordained in 1937, "Buff" — as he was to become known to his family and to close friends — served his title at Portsdown, Southampton, where his vicar was the former Cambridge rowing Blue, Stretton Reeve, the future Bishop of Lichfield. Here Cocks continued to play rugby, for Hampshire as well as for Eastern Counties and for Wasps.

In 1939, however, he joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve, and he served throughout the war as a chaplain — at Cranwell until 1943 and then in the Air Ministry as chaplain to the Chaplain-in-Chief. As such, he represented his department at the victory service in Westminster Abbey after the war, in the absence of the Chaplain-in-Chief, who was abroad.

Cocks then went to India in 1946, remaining there until after the 1947 Partition. He next moved to RAF Germany, and then to Bomber Command at High Wycombe in 1952, by which time he had been appointed assistant chaplain-in-chief. He became Chaplain-in-Chief in 1959.


Cocks: oversaw the building of garrison churches

Cocks had a variety of extramural interests both before and after his retirement from Shrewsbury. He was at various times a director of Mercia Television, and a member of the council at Haileybury, as well being a governor of Denstone School, Shrewsbury School and Ellesmere College (all in Shropshire). He was also the archbishops' adviser to the Headmasters' Conference. Another of his enthusiasms led to his becoming president of the Shropshire Horticultural Society and the Shropshire and West Midlands Agricultural Society.

He retained his love of sports besides rugby, playing squash as a young man and golf later. A useful off-spinner, he was chairman of the RAF Cricket Club, and once took the first XI to Japan. But that was in the days of National Service when the RAF XI contained the likes of Fred Trueman, Jim Parkes, Peter Parfitt, Fred Titmuss and Tony Lewis. However beguiling his off-spin, Cocks could hardly claim a place as a player.

His sporting prowess, however, together with a lively intellect and sense of humour, helped to make him a gifted communicator.

Not the least of his strengths was his thirst for asking questions — and actually listening to the answers.

His whirlwind romance with his wife Barbara, an actress-dancer who once appeared with Vivien Leigh, was startling enough to be reported in Sunday newspapers. As a young chaplain in 1940, he attended a wartime cabaret in which she was appearing at the Mayfair Hotel and was so captivated that he whisked her off to dinner after the show and more or less proposed the same night. Much later he privately circulated an autobiography entitled *The Actress and the Bishop*.

His wife died in 1989. He is survived by their son and daughter.

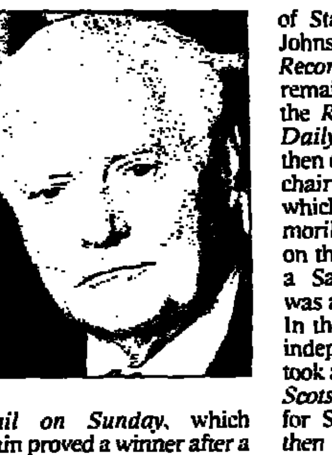
MILESTONES



Sir Gordon Newton, Editor of the *Financial Times*, 1950-72, died on August 31 aged 90. He was born on September 16, 1907.

From a job as clerk on the *Financial News* in 1934, Gordon Newton rose to be commodities editor by 1939. After the war, which he spent in the Royal Artillery, he rejoined what was by then the *Financial Times*, and within three years he was Editor. He gave up writing, but took on a number of remarkable young Oxbridge graduates — including William Rees-Mogg, Shirley Williams and Samuel Brittan — who helped to turn the paper from a City circular into an international power. Inch by inch, the coverage was broadened, first to all of industry, then to arts, sports and other news. Newton retired at 65 and made a complete break from the paper.

Obituary published on September 3.

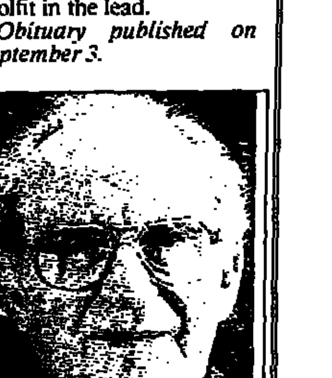


Vere Harmsworth, 3rd Viscount Rothermere, publisher of the *Daily Mail*, *Mail on Sunday*, and *Evening Standard*, died on September 1 following a heart attack aged 73. He was born on August 27, 1925.

Like his forebears, who included the founder of the *Daily Mail* and sometime proprietor of *The Times*, Lord Northcliffe, Vere Harmsworth was a complex and eccentric personality, often underestimated in his years as heir apparent but vindicated by his success in rebuilding his family's flagship newspaper. At the beginning of the 1970s, with the *Daily Mail* in decline, he merged it with the *Daily Sketch* as the new tabloid *Mail*. Initially regarded with suspicion, it soon overtook the *Express*, and by the 1980s it was speaking powerfully for Middle England. In 1982, Rothermere launched *The Mail on Sunday*, which again proved a winner after a shaky start, and in 1986 he saw off Robert Maxwell's attempt to establish a rival to the London *Evening Standard*.

Obituary published on September 3.

Sir Alastair Dunnett, former Editor of the *Daily Record* and *The Scotsman*, died on September 2 aged 89. He was born on December 26, 1908.



After spells on the *Glasgow Weekly Herald* and the *Bulletin*, Alastair Dunnett joined the *Daily Record* in 1937 as art editor. During the war he was seconded as chief press officer to the Secretary of State for Scotland, Tom Johnston, returning to the *Record* as Editor in 1946. He remained until 1955, when the *Record* was sold to the *Daily Mirror*. Roy Thomson then offered him the editorial chair of *The Scotsman*, which was then dreary and moribund. Dunnett put news on the front page and began a Saturday section, which was an innovation in its day. In the growing debate about independence, *The Scotsman* took a federal position. If *The Scotsman* would not speak for Scotland, Dunnett said, then no one would. His play *Fit to Print* (1962) was staged in London with Sir Donald Wolfit in the lead.

Obituary published on September 3.

PERSONAL

Peter said: 'I now understand how true it is that God has no favourites, but that in every nation those who are god-fearing and do what is right are acceptable to him'. Acts of the Apostles 10 : 34,35.

BIRTHS

BLACKMORE - On August 27th at St. Thomas's Hospital to Elisabeth (née Fraser-Andrews) and Colin, a daughter, Livia Constance.

COVE - On Tuesday 1st September 1998 to Siân and Shaun, an exceptionally beautiful daughter Eleanor May Morgan.

DODD - On Monday August 17th 1998, to Jane Hawdon and Mark Dodd, a son, Rory Albert, a brother for Miranda.

GANDON - On August 28th at The Portland Hospital to Aude (née Salipante) and Jean-Christophe, a daughter, Alice.

HARVEY - On August 29th to Kate (née Hinde) and Nick a son (Thomas George Nicholas).

HOGG - On August 28th to Nicki (née Kennedy) and Ruairidh a son James Greiogair Alistair, a brother for Finola.

HORNOR - On September 1st Rebecca (née Kinnear) and Charles a fine son Bassett Henry Kinnear.

KANE - On September 2nd to Clarinda and Jonathan, a son, Jack Andrew Douglas, a brother for Christina.

STANLEY - On September 3rd to Beverley (née Emmitt) and Charles, a daughter, Sophia Kate, a sister to Venetia and Olivia.

STUART-MILLS - On Tuesday September 1st to Lucinda (née Wallace) and James, a daughter, Georgia Lily.

BIRTHS

TITLEY - On September 4th to Kate (née Aspinall) and Philip, a daughter, (Lucy Nancy Wolseley), a sister for Molly.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

WATKINS - Joan and Roger of Berkhamsted (40 years on) and going for Gold. Congratulations from Vicky, Zoe and Steve.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

HOPKIN:RICOUR - On September 6th 1938, at the Town Hall, Marcq-en-Baroeul, Nord, France, Bryan Hopkin to Renée Ricour. Present address: 1 Gresham Court, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, MK40 3PG.

DEATHS

BUTLER - Derek Arthur died after a brave fight against cancer at The London Clinic on Monday 31st August 1998. He was a devoted son to Kathleen Annie Butler whose other son Frank William Butler died last year. Derek will be missed by his partner Yoshio Iwaya and many other friends. Funeral at 2.00pm, 15th September at St. George's Church, Aubrey Walk, Campden Hill, London W8 by JH Kenyon of Marloes Road, London W8. Tel:0171 937 0757

DEATHS

COLLINGWOOD - Vera, peacefully after a short illness on 1st September aged 77. Much loved by family and friends in England and Italy. No flowers please. Funeral at St. Anne's, Kew Green at 11.15am on Friday 11th September.

COLLYER - Peacefully in her sleep at the Albany Nursing Home, Headington, Oxford on 3rd September 1998. Constance Elizabeth, beloved wife of the late Peter and much loved mother of Marilyn and Garth. The funeral service will take place on Thursday 10th September at 1.00pm at St. Andrew's Church, Old Headington, followed by burial at Churchill, nr Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire. Flowers to R.V. Mallett, 124 Lime Walk, Headington, Oxford.

COTTLE - Ian Geoffrey, husband of Inge, Daddy of Chrissy, Gini and Steffi and Papa of Freddy, died peacefully on September 2nd after a short illness. Service at St John's Church, Belmont, Surrey at 10.30am on September 9th. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to St Anthony's Hospital, North Cheam.

COX - Keith FRS fellow of Jesus College Oxford, beloved husband of Gillian and father of James, William and Emma. At sea on August 27th 1998 while on holiday on the Isle of Mull. Service of Thanksgiving at St Swithun's Church, Kennington on Sunday 13th September at 3.00pm. Retiring collection for the local rescue services. Memorial service at Jesus College to be announced.

LITTLEWOOD - Gerald, on September 1st 1998 peacefully at Rhos-on-sea, the former First Director of Music at Chethams School of Music, Manchester. The beloved husband of Audrey, loving father of Mark and Annie. Funeral Service at St Paul's Church, Colwyn Bay on Monday September 7th, 2.30pm. Flowers or kind donations to St Kentigens Hospice, St Asaph. Enquiries: 01492 532206.

PANKHURST - Brian Beresford (Lt. Commander R N Rtd). Peacefully on September 2nd 1998 at Fairmile Marie Curie Centre, Edinburgh. Brian, much loved husband of Annette and dad of Christopher, Fiona and Simon. Service at Mortonhall Crematorium Main Chapel, Edinburgh, on Monday September 7th at 2.00pm to which all friends and family are welcome. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Fairmile Marie Curie, Edinburgh.

PRESTON - Rita Barbara of Meeting Hill, North Walsham, Norfolk, peacefully at home on September 3rd 1998. Much loved wife of Dr. R.M.S. Preston and mother Mark and Alexandra. Funeral service at St Mary's Church, Happisburgh on Friday September 11th at 2.30pm. Flowers by 12 noon and enquiries to Murral Cork Funeral Directors, Mundesley Road, North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 0DB. Tel: 01692 402059.

REYNOLDS - Ursula Henrietta, on 31st August, aged 89, peacefully in Maidenhead. Much loved mother of Frances, Oliver and Anne Harriet. Service at Slough Crematorium, Stoke Road on Thursday 10th September at 4.00pm. Family flowers only please but donations, if desired, to RNIB.

SALES - Doris Annie (née Buckley) died peacefully on August 25th, aged 84. Much loved and loving mother, grandmother, sister and friend. Cherished Administrator and guide at Hellen's Manor, Much Marcle, Herefordshire for the last 20 years. Cremation at Hereford Crematorium on September 4th at 1.45pm. Thanksgiving Service on Friday, September 25th at 12 noon at St Bartholomews Church, Much Marcle, Herefordshire. Family flowers only. In memory of Doris, donations to Much Marcle Church Bell Fund would be appreciated. Donations to Smiths Funeral Services, Furnace Lane, Newent GL18 1DD.

SEYMOUR-SMITH - On September 2nd 1998 at the Kent and Sussex Hospital, peacefully after a short illness, Janet Seymour-Smith (née De Glanville) aged 68. Funeral Service at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on Friday, 11th September at 3.30pm. Flowers and enquiries to Paul Bysouth Funeral Services, Crowborough. Tel:(01892) 655000.

SMITH - Margaret, on 1st September in her 92nd year, at Farnborough Hospital, Kent, mother of Andreas and Hermione, grandmother of Benedict, Mark, Sebastian, Miranda and Benjamin, great-grandmother of Henry. Thank you for your love and for your life. Funeral service at Bromley College, Bromley, at 10.00am, 7th September and burial at All Saints Church, Thornton Hough, Merseyside, at 4.30pm, 7th September.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

STEEL - On 3rd September 1998, peacefully in hospital and of Goostrey, George Malcolm Steel, aged 65 years, the devoted husband of Doreen and father of David and Christopher. Funeral service and committal at Altrincham Crematorium on Wednesday 9th September 1998 at 3.00pm. Family flowers only please, donations if wished for The David Lewis Centre. Donations and Enquiries to Dodgson's Funeral Service, 25 Manchester Road, Knutsford. Tel:(01565) 634251.

STEVENS - Colonel T.M.P. (Paddy), O.B.E., M.C. Royal Marines. Passed away in hospital after a long illness on Sunday 30th August 1998, aged 78. Sadly missed by Judy, Susan, Mike, Jacky, Mandy and Clara. Private funeral has taken place. Donations, if desired, in aid of The St. Helier Association for Kidney Patients c/o Woking Funeral Service, 119/121 Goldsworth Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 1LR. Tel:01483 772266.

VICK - Sir Arthur Vick O.B.E., of Warwick, died peacefully at home on 2nd September 1998, aged 87 years. Father of Christine and brother of Nora Brandon. Former Vice-Chancellor of Queens University Belfast, Pro-Chancellor of Warwick University, also former Governor of Myton School, Warwick. Funeral Service at Mid-Warwickshire Crematorium, Oakleywood, Bishops Tachbrook, Leamington Spa, on Monday 14th September at 11.30am. A memorial service will be arranged at a later date. Enquiries to John Taylor Funeral Service, 9 St. John's, Warwick. Tel:01926 490780.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

KEMP - née Frost. A service of thanksgiving for the life of Eunice Ellen Kemp will be held at Southover Church, Lewes, Sussex on Tuesday 15th September at 2.30pm.

SELLERS - Olwyn Patricia. Only ever one 6th Sept. Love always Bill.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A post Graduate student desperately needs financial help or sponsorship to do his research in plant science. Please respond to box number 2621

75 is no age to be leaving home.

Rukba helps elderly people preserve their precious independence by providing them with extra income so they can afford to stay in their own homes. And 900 volunteers offer them something even more valuable than money - friendship. For further information: FREEPOST, 6 Avonmore Road, London W14 8BR or telephone: 0345 58 56 80

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BERNARD is delighted to accept the invitation to Camille's 18th Birthday Party tonight.

WANTED

DEPENDABLE Father & Son urgently seek accommodation Monday - Friday in family house Kensington, Chelsea or Fulham. Ring 0831 380 388

PROMS - Last night tickets wanted. Good prices paid. Tel 0973 394961

HELP! MY BEAUTIFUL CATS NOW NEED A NEW HOME. A foster or permanent home to keep my 'cat family' together required for 2 beautiful Tonkinese (females 2 yrs old), 1 British Blue (male 5 yrs), 1 Black & White Cross (female 5 yrs), 1 Ginger Tom (5 yrs). All neutered or spayed. All very affectionate and in need of a loving home (preferably) together. Tel 07050 837048

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ALL AVAIL. B/G's, B.Stewart, S.Red, E.Clapton, S.Girls. All Theatre & Sport. A Sntnts. 0171 536 0781

ALL TICKETS. Rugby 5 Nations Proms, Spice Girls, E. Clapton, Simply Red. All major theatre & sporting events, inc Euro Football. 0171 925 0085

FOR SALE

A BIRTHDATE Newspaper Original. Superbly presented. Freephone 0800 906609.

CARTIER - Flawless 1 carat heart shape diamond ring, colour 'D'. Platinum setting and band, 8 weeks old, perfect engagement ring. Breathtakingly beautiful 8K ono. Please respond to box number 2804

MILAN Monza Grand Prix, September 12 - 13. Helicopter transfers, lunch, start/finish line tickets £750 ono. Contact Rosalind 0171 572 7744.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

STUNNING new Steinway Concert Grand model 'D' in satin walnut and in immaculate condition; with pianodisk PDS 128 plus. Voiced and recently tuned by ulrich, Steinway's senior technician. Bought in April this year - Never been played - Unique opportunity. Worth £74,000; will consider offers. Please telephone Barry Howard : 0171 486 6610/6613 (Day) or Gillian Howard : 0171 435 3229 (Day/Eve)

GIFTS

A BIRTHDATE Newspaper 1847-1997 in presentation folder £19.00 inc p&p. Newsreel year videos avail. Details Tel/Fax 01934 412844 8am 7 days.

FLOWERS BY POST year round, 12 Carnations £10.00, 18 £13.00, 24 £18.00. 12 Carnations and 25 Freesias £18.00. 25 Freesias £10.50. 24 Carnations & 25 Freesias £24.50. Card and message inc. La Neuve Maison Nursery, St Saviour's, Guernsey, CI. Tel 01481 63052. CC's. Fax 01481 66013.

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TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

BOVIER, JANE of 56 Keswick Road, London SW15 died on 17 February 1998 particulars to LEE BOLTON & LEE Solicitors of 1 THE SANCTUARY, WESTMINSTER, LONDON SW1P 3JT (Ref: 2317/MJDF/GS/1T9801299) before 6 November 1998.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE 0171-782 7344 FAX: 0171-782 7827

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COURT & SOCIAL

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES

Please send Court page announcements by post/fax to: Mrs J Neeman, Court & Social Advertising, The Times, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London, E1 9XS. Tel: 0171 782 7347 Fax: 0171 782 7725

Please include in all correspondence: a signature of either one of the parties concerned or a parent, a daytime and home telephone number and address.

Advertisements for the Court page must be received two working days prior to publication and are accepted subject to confirmation.

Advertising Rate is £17.84 per line inc VAT.

Subdued end to week

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
646	485	Allied Domecq	503	+17	4.9	12.3
412½	295	Bulmer (HP)	337½	...	5.6	14.6
42½	8½	Burn Stewart	11		19.3	
795	432	Diageo	586	+3½	3.8	25.6
900	755	Glenmorangie A	830	...	2.1	19.3
325	225	Highland Distl	230½	...	4.9	10.7
215	140	Matthew Clark	141½	-2	11.5	4.8
59½	35½	Minmet W	35½	-1		
3021¼	803¾	SA Breweries	846¼	-6¼	3.7	13.3

BANKS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1618½	1178¼	ABN-AMRO	1316¾	-12½	2.4	18.7
1345	951	Abbey Natl	1093	-15	3.7	16.1
1032	585	Alliance & Leic	856½	+15½	3.3	16.0
1000½	587½	Allied Irish	712	-29½	2.7	19.8
458¾	293¾	Aus New Z	300	+6¾	6.9	
6075	3716¼	Bank America	3716¼	-125		
613	431	Bank Scotland	600	+12	2.1	16.0
1996	1068	Barclays	1230	-36	4.0	11.9
1322½	866¼	Bk of Ireland	900	-10	2.8	14.6
£109¾	£79⅝	Citicorp	£79⅝	-387½		
1690½	1565¼	Commerzbk	1671¼		3.2	
543¼	237½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	278¼	-6¼	1.4	61.6
5368¾	3665¼	Deutsche Bk	3665¼	-78¼	1.7	
1206¼	1153¾	Espirito Santo	1165¾	+6¼	3.2	
531	163¾	Fuji Bank Y	164¼	-10½	2.3	33.4
2073	1130	HSBC	1130	-25	5.8	10.3
2002	937	HSBC HK	1100	-18	5.9	10.1
1000	648¼	Halifax	722½	-13½	4.2	19.8
842½	587	Irish Perm	617½	+5	2.6	17.9
1090	652	Lloyds TSB	658½	+1½	3.6	18.9
916¼	735	Nat Aust Bk	735	-6¼	4.5	
1244	751	Nat West	939	-2	4.4	16.1
673	455	Northern Rock	532	-2	2.6	17.4
1140	565	Royal Bk Scot	824	-21	3.4	15.3
1050	415	Stand Chart	417½	-22½	5.8	7.1
£164¾	£164¾	Wells Fargo	£164¾		1.9	
439	315¾	Westpac	315¾	-2¾	4.0	
400	300	Woolwich	329	+7	3.8	15.9

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
332½	260	Ann Street Grp	270		10.6	9.0
1175	765	Bass	816	+5	4.3	14.1
81½	50½	Brit for the Burt	52		4.8	16.9
197½	144¾	Burtonwd Brw	162½		4.8	11.4
162½	95½	City Centre Rest	96	-1	3.6	14.9
700	290½	Compass Grp	554	+26	1.1	36.4
342½	227½	Eldridge P A	230	+5	3.4	11.2
384½	234	Enterprise Inns	241½	-1	4.0	13.8
552½	425	Fullr Sm A	510	+5	2.8	14.4
538	346	Greenalls Grp	360	+7	6.0	8.5
760	521	Greene King	551½	+4	4.2	10.1
358	212½	Groupe Chez Ge	217½		1.9	15.0
281½	204½	Hardy Hansn	204½		7.2	8.9
2175	1750	Hall J	1755		4.8	8.5
76	46½	Ion Brewery	48½	-½	4.8	6.6
317	242	Mansfield	243½		4.1	9.3
360¾	204½	Mrstn Thmp	205		5.4	8.9
472½	350	Morland	357½	-5	4.7	9.5
384¼	225½	Old Eng Pub	227	-2	1.7	16.0
35	21½	Paramount	22½			
950	562½	PizzaExpress	632½	+17	0.7	28.6
377½	205	Ransomes (H)	215		2.9	22.6
388½	132½	Regent Inns	139	+1	3.2	9.9
237½	136½	SFI	141½	-1½	1.1	17.9
950	701	Scot & New	730	-19	4.0	13.7
307½	197½	Stag & Lettuce	209½	+1	3.9	
361	227	Vaux Group	252½	+5	5.6	10.4
342	167½	Wetherspoon JD	190	+5½	1.4	20.4
1145	700	Whitbread	727	-7	4.5	13.1
568½	410	Wolverhampton D	417½		5.8	9.0
558½	313½	Yates Bros	314	-2½	1.4	19.4
937½	612½	Young A	615	+2½	3.3	21.8

BUILDING MATERIALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
76½	49½	Aggregate Inds	59½	+2	3.7	20.4
268	188	Anglian Group	189	+½	6.6	10.3
447	275	BPB	292	+2	3.8	13.1
118½	71½	Baggeridge Bk	74½		6.0	8.0
62½	35½	Blockleys	37½		1.5	42.8
407	261	Blue Circle	278	-5	5.2	10.5
149	74½	Breedon PLC	91½	-10	7.9	11.1
945	644	CRH	724	+6½	1.5	18.0
62½	45½	Cakebread Roy	45½		10.8	3.7
156½	107½	Cape	130½		6.2	11.2
215½	134½	Caradon	143	+4½	7.2	9.9
116½	97½	Caradon Pf	98½		9.2	
139½	50	Chelsfam Grp	50½		10.6	3.6
425	212½	Dyson (J&J)	415		1.8	22.5
130	75	Dyson A	100		7.5	5.4
60½	34½	Ericsons	37½	+3		
137½	123½	Epwin	138½		9.2	7.1
158½	101½	Gibbs & Dandy	131½		3.9	10.1
205	107½	Graham Grp	114½		6.8	9.6
392½	177½	Hanson (J)	324½		7.0	11.9
395	245	Hanson	324½	+10½	4.6	11.2
255	145	Hepworth	147	-1	7.7	
178½	95½	Hewetson	100		9.4	5.4
294½	202½	Heywd Wm	212	-1	8.1	8.0
66	37	Ibstock	39½	+½	7.0	9.8
355	250	Johnston	315		4.8	17.0
197½	50½	Litterwell	50½	-½	10.5	5.9
129½	75½	Marley	93½		7.6	6.6
162½	105	Marshalls	119	+1½	4.3	7.1
345½	244	Meyer Intl	255½	+8½	6.4	15.9
77½	60½	Norcros	61		3.8	11.0
149½	67	Pilkington	67½	-1	7.4	36.9
24	11½	Pilkington				
196	109½	Poyntone	106		4.1	7.9
1190	740	RMC	758	+8	4.3	11.0
117	78½	Rubberoid	86½	+2	7.1	9.9
143	72½	Rugby Group	78½	+5	6.4	11.3
103½	73½	Russell (A)	78½		4.8	11.9
276	148	SIG	153	+½	6.4	7.8
3½	1½	SWP	1½			
237½	147½	Sharpe & Fisher	147½	-5	5.3	9.1
25	9	Spring Ram	9½		1.4	
132½	8	Tarmac	77½	+½	9.7	9.3
125	82	Tilon	82		8.1	8.0
528½	379	Travis Perkins	397½	+10	3.5	12.2
107½	60½	Tudor	61½		6.1	7.9
372	190½	Ultraframe	217½		2.0	18.4
570	295	Wolseley	290	-5	5.0	9.3

CHEMICALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
191½	104	Albright & Wil	105	-½	6.8	10.4
142½	77½	Amber Ind	77½		9.3	6.6
118	72½	Amberley Grp	72½	-4	3.2	11.1
100	67½	Allnone Er	67½		12.6	11.0
3153¾	2003¾	BASF DM	2290¾	-12½	3.1	
1109	715	BOC	790	+16	4.4	17.5
581	331½	BTP	397½	-2½	3.8	17.9
26½	14½	Banner Chem	15		10.0	5.8
3221¼	2131½	Bayer DM50	2271¼	+9¾	2.6	
193½	142	Blagden	142½		2.5	9.2
126	94½	Brent Chems	98½		3.8	11.1
342½	197½	Br Vita	213½	-4	5.1	10.8
187½	128½	Brunner Mond	185½		5.9	10.2
296	194½	Canning (W)	197½		5.8	9.4
229½	155	City Technology	158	-1	3.0	30.5
474	234	Courtaulds	447		3.7	11.4
469	280½	Croda	280½	-3	3.7	15.8
344½	203½	Doeflex	344½	+15½	3.1	14.7
178	84½	Elementis	86½		2.4	11.0
313½	226½	Ellis & Everard	231		5.7	9.4
78½	53½	Euro Colour	57		6.5	8.9
94½	38½	Hickson	50	+1½	3.2	7.3
3216¾	2096¾	Hoechst	2378¼	+68¾	2.3	
1244	582	ICI	587	+2	5.5	20.5
337½	189	Inspec	337		2.5	16.5
193½	86½	Kalon	95½	+8½	8.1	15.9
890½	530	Laporte	530	-5	4.9	10.7
75	29½	Monstem	30½	+½	9.8	2.9
35	26	Metrotect	36½		6.6	6.8
380	225	Porvair	236		3.4	13.1
231	150	Scapa	153½		5.0	10.1
1761¼	1437½	Takeda Chem	1664	-3	0.6	21.0
248	147½	Victrex	160	-3	3.9	12.7
685	517½	Wolstenholme R	520	-5	6.5	8.3
240	137	Yorks Grp	139½		8.6	8.8
440	281½	Yule Catto	282½	-1	4.4	11.6

CONSTRUCTION

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
58½	19½	AAF Inds	33½	+1		7.4
375	230	Abbey	250		4.0	
480	332½	Allen	383½	-8	3.5	15.7
217½	114	Amec	150	+1	4.5	12.1
875	400	Amey	575	-5	2.5	15.4
260	143½	Andrews Sykes	147½	-5	2.5	14.7
286½	180	Ashtead	184½	+1	1.6	18.3
48½	28½	Avonside	36	-1	6.2	5.6
46	26½	Bandt	31½		5.8	8.6
341	157½	Barratt Dvs	157½	-½	7.4	6.9
235	128	Beazer	132½	-½	6.4	7.5
401½	227½	Bellway	237½	-2	5.0	7.9
30	18½	Bellwinch	29½			10.1
95½	46½	Ben Bailey	62½	+3	5.0	6.1
784½	496½	Berkeley Gp	506½	-6	2.5	8.4
170	113	Bett Bros	123	+3	7.0	3.4
315	180	Bool (Henry)	180		5.9	6.7
276½	157½	Bovis Homes	166½	+6½	7.1	7.3
42½	30½	Britannia Grp	37½	-1	4.7	15.1
155½	76½	Bryant	87	+2	7.3	8.0
129½	96½	CALA	103½		6.5	
4	3	Campbell & Arm	3			
141½	83½	Clarke T	97½		8.5	5.9
42½	19½	Costain	20			
125½	82	Countryside	86½		4.8	6.7
145½	92½	Crest Nicholson	96		5.2	6.3
122½	69½	Cussins	70		8.1	5.4
288	160	Eve Group	230		4.0	12.4
23½	15	Galliford	15½	+½	8.5	9.0
1100	850	Gleeson (MJ)	850		2.7	12.5
175	80	Havelock Euro	81½		7.3	5.5
212	126	Hewden-Stuart	138	+8	3.3	16.6
28	18½	Howard Hldgs	19		6.5	12.7
788	369½	Jarvis	501½	-9	2.0	19.0
252½	164½	Keller	168	+2½	4.0	10.4
250½	199½	Kier	219½		4.1	11.0
397½	309½	Laing (J)	346	-½	3.7	18.6
137½	112	Laing 6.4% Cv Pf	112		7.1	
15	8¼	Lovell (YJ)	12½			
212½	155½	Manders (J)	209½		3.8	12.1
181½	106½	McAlpine (A)	113½		8.3	8.7
191½	111½	McCarthy & S	112	-½	3.7	18.7
142½	70	McInerney	127½		1.9	14.5
253½	171½	Morgan Sindall	201		3.5	9.7
397½	301	Morrison Cons	314½	-1	2.3	15.9
150	77½	Mowlem (J)	99	+1½	5.1	9.1
258½	138½	Persimmon	157½	+2	8.2	6.7
109½	74½	Prestbouse	80½		5.7	5.6
128½	112	Pochins	118½		2.9	13.1
158½	98½	Prowting	101½		5.7	6.4
198	124½	Redrow	138½	+5	3.4	10.2
325	222½	Spandex	317½		1.5	18.3
94½	53½	Swan Hill	60	+½	5.7	10.9
142½	110½	Tay Homes	119½		7.9	9.7
238	133½	Taylor Woodrw	144	+3½	3.1	10.9
308	190	Tilbury Dougls	236		5.1	13.0
29½	18½	Try Group	19	+½	3.9	6.9
88	62½	Vibroplant	64		7.9	
139½	90½	Wainhomes	90½		7.3	
60	27½	Ward Hldgs	31		8.9	
272½	168½	Westbury	168½	-4	5.5	7.2
18	10½	Wiggins	12½	+1½		17.7
191	110½	Wilson (C)	111½		6.4	7.6
733	493½	Wilson Bowden	512½		3.2	9.3
143½	92½	Wimpey G	104	+1	6.5	8.6

DISTRIBUTORS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]	[illegible]	Acorn Co Sols	200½	+½	1.7	16.7
[illegible]	226	Adam & Harvey	222½	-2½	12.1	4.0
[illegible]	5½	[illegible]	14½			
[illegible]	1	[illegible] Eng	1½			25.1
457	318½	BCS Group	322½		8.5	10.1
20½	10½	Bearing Power	11½			
35½	30½	Bogod A	30½		4.5	4.9
735	485	Bramall	487½		4.4	10.9
16½	10½	Bridgend Gp	13½		1.9	21.5
117½	72½	Brit Fittings	86½		7.4	7.1
372½	300	Caffyns	310		5.6	8.3
206	10½	Cal Group	11	+½		1.3
175½	133½	Cavendish	133½	-1	4.2	8.5
54½	31½	Cook (DC)	37½		8.6	7.4
139½	96½	Dag Motors	103½		10.6	5.6
125½	102½	Dennans El	107½	+2	3.5	7.1
276	151½	Diploma	152½		11.9	6.4
601	307	Electrocomponents	350	-20	3.2	18.6
186	95	Eurodis Elec	95	-1½	7.8	10.5
122	79½	European Mrt	80		9.5	6.1
305	164	Evans Halshaw	164	-9	11.3	5.7
87½	38½	Fife Indmar	79½	+1½	6.1	8.6
400½	212½	Firelist Grp	221½		5.2	
28	14	Gardiner	14		9.1	6.1
82½	59	Glenchewton	60	-½	4.5	7.6
135½	69½	Gowrings	102½		4.5	8.9
20½	12½	HR Owen	14½	-½	6.9	9.4
405	250	Heatlam	255		3.7	12.3
160	105	Hordern Tech	107½		7.8	5.9
129	39½	ISA Intl	58		7.1	8.1
250	135½	Inchcape	153½		7.8	18.8
80	55½	Jacks (Wm)	56½		7.7	5.3
583½	351½	Jeal-Fit	390	-½	2.1	17.5
614	402½	Lex Service	428	+8	5.4	10.0
123	77½	Lookers	79½	-1	13.0	5.1
575	351	Menzies (John)	520	+5	3.7	14.9
5½	1½	Middlesex	2			
29½	14½	Moss	20½		2.9	5.3
326½	220	Norbain	235	+1	5.1	11.3
281	157½	Northambs	172		2.2	11.4
342	177	Parkco	177	-7½	6.8	10.4
312½	171	Pendragon	171	-2½	7.8	8.1
255	138½	Perry Gp	140		8.7	5.2
443	210	Premier Farnell	213½	-1½	7.6	8.4
164½	110½	Quicks Group	111½	-4	9.3	6.9
285	85	REA	95		4.2	16.3
3	1½	Reece	1½			
38½	21½	Ring	23			
12½	4½	Roosco	4½			
5½	3½	Ross Gp	3½			8.4
112½	69½	Rotand	70		7.9	5.3
31½	22	SEP Indl	33		7.1	10.9
30	10	Salter	12			
290	177½	Sanderson Bram	177½	-6½	4.1	6.0
67½	38	Sedgemoor	38		6.6	9.1
273½	179½	Sytner	179½		4.8	8.5
195½	85	Time Products	89½	-½	17.5	4.9
235	132½	Trust Motor Grp	227½		1.4	4.0
440	305	UMECO	308		2.8	14.2
124	74	United Carr Gp	77½	+½	1.8	17.8
299½	195	Vardy (Reg)	195½		5.3	8.2
840	655	WF Elect	805		2.8	20.0
192½	97½	Wyko	99		4.5	
165½	115	Young (H)	115½		5.1	7.8

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
330	168½	Antofagasta	171	+1	4.2	12.5
642	406½	Broken Hill	452	+12½	4.0	
770	466½	BAT	577	-10	4.9	16.5
43½	17	Brierley Inv	17	-1½	17.2	4.5
277½	194½	Cosalt	194½		7.5	6.5
613	395	DCC	395		2.3	12.8
410	302	Gallaher	377½	+5½	6.4	10.7
450½	235	Hutch Whamp	274½	+12½	4.6	
565½	383½	Imperial Tob	520	-5	5.2	12.5
335½	93½	Jardine Math	101		14.8	4.8
94½	48½	Lonrho Africa	49		5.9	12.3
629½	420	Powell Duffryn	420	-5	7.4	10.6
147	92½	Staveley	94		12.0	23.3
368½	158½	Swire Pacific	162½	+4	8.4	5.2
393½	231	Tomkins	240	-2	5.7	10.0
250	175	Unitaze	177½		9.1	9.0
570	345	Wardle Storeys	347½		7.6	10.1
381½	245½	Wassall	249½	+2	3.1	11.4
135½	49	Winterfield	49½	+½	11.7	8.1

ELECTRICITY

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
615½	310	Br Energy	557	-7	3.3	21.0
406½	298½	National Grid	409½	-6½	3.7	20.7
700	470	National Power	516	+12	6.5	10.9
900	701	PowerGen	786	+29	4.6	12.3
608	502½	Hydro-Elec	573½	+8½	4.3	12.4
625	475	Scottish Power	611	-4	4.2	14.8
620	467	Southern Elect	560	+5½	5.3	14.5
625	522	Yorkshire	560	+4½	5.1	12.7

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1325	715	ARM Holdings	1095			
410	232½	Acal	240		5.7	8.4
1492½	630	Admiral	952½	-50	0.4	44.0
58½	27½	Amstrad	29		2.2	
35	25	Ariel	25½		6.3	8.5
129½	63	Avesco	63½	+½	2.0	7.1
77½	47½	Azlan	47½			
182½	81½	BICC	67	+4½	12.0	
460	260	Black	379	+½	4.8	12.4
604½	345½	Bowthorpe	410	-1½	3.4	15.6
18	12	Bulgin A	13½		11.8	7.7
205½	139½	CML Micro	164		5.3	15.4
27½	2	Channel Hldgs	8½	+½	8.1	
51	38½	Chamide	45½		2.2	13.8
912½	565	Cookson	565	-17½	2.3	13.5
342½	121½	Delta	130		13.3	5.1
451	392	Domino	408½		3.9	13.9
77½	46½	Dowding Mills	46½		8.6	8.8
320	240	Dowty	302½		0.8	26.9
1250	825	Electrolux B	918½	+62½	10.2	34.4
28	17	Emess	21½	+½	3.4	17.9
2006½	1065½	Ericsson B	1353½	+31½	1.0	29.4
491½	311	Eurotherm	425		2.9	18.7
590	246½	Farry Group	261½	+6	4.5	7.5
587½	395	Filtronic	441½	-1	0.6	25.9
18½	7½	Forward Tech	10½			
577½	338	GEC	427	+8	3.3	18.4
49½	21½	Ind Control	22½			
32	15	Intelek	17		6.6	13.6
215	158½	Jacobs	158½		7.6	
92	54½	LPA	66		4.5	21.2
1004½	445	Lucas	612½	+10½		
180½	50½	Network Tech	52		3.1	5.9
372	210	Oxford Instr	211½		4.8	9.3
111	27½	Pace Micro	84½	+½	0.8	
6271¼	3450	Philips Elec	3625	-146½	1.3	16.1
98½	38½	Plusmon	66½			
311½	184½	Pressac	212½		2.6	17.7
60½	21½	Prestwick	23		6.0	6.5
725	204	Psion	468½	-1½	0.7	44.8
437	243½	Racal Elect	341½	+1	2.2	
97½	44½	Radamec	44½		8.7	9.8
505	335	Renishaw	362½		3.1	21.2
1½	½	Rodime	1			
292½	177	Roxboro	178½		5.1	8.3
381½	202½	SDF Bus Sys	325		1.0	32.0
377½	177½	Siemens	184		6.5	9.0
59½	35½	Silvermines	38½		4.9	7.4
5012½	4000	TDK	4281½	-109½	0.6	
72½	49½	TGI	51	+½	8.9	5.6
168½	88½	TLG	166½	+17	2.8	30.1
62	7	Tadpole Tech	18			
67½	31½	Telemetrix	33½		6.0	
365	150	Telspec	175	+2½		21.5
159½	109½	Thorn FW	132½	+1	4.7	6.7
159½	67½	Total Systems	70		2.9	10.3
13	6½	Ultima Networks	6½	-½		
111	62½	Verity	72		0.2	...
40½	16	Vigion Technology	21	+4	2.4	
660	460	Volex	505		5.0	14.0

ENGINEERING

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
312½	135	AIM	136½	-3½	4.1	
2125	1350	ALSTOM	1350			14.7
44	19½	ASW	20			
255	98½	Alumasc	105	+1½	10.1	4.8
214	129½	Alvis	161½	-½	2.4	9.5
385	315	Ascot	233½		6.1	8.5
176½	130½	Ash & Lacy	130½		7.4	6.2
125	43	Ayrshire Metal	43		5.8	4.1
535½	345½	BBA	346	-7	3.3	14.2
230½	127½	BTR	132½	+2½	7.2	8.7
97½	68½	BWI	77½	-½	5.2	8.7
92½	61	Babcock	66½	-½	2.7	14.7
13	6½	Bailey (CH)	8		3.9	
110½	51½	Baynes (Charles)	53½		7.5	7.8
27½	2½	Beauford	4½	+½	22.2	
261½	181½	Beresford	196	-1½	3.9	8.9
109	84	Berald Cv Un Ln	86½		6.0	
1285	845	Bodycote	937½		1.3	21.5
54½	35½	Booth Inds	47½			21.1
29	12½	Brassway	13½		8.3	8.6
141	75½	Bridport	82½		7.4	9.3
587	357	Br Aerospace	385½	+4½	1.6	16.7
172	104	Br Steel	106½	-1½	11.7	9.0
159½	95½	Brooke Indl	133½	+1	4.9	7.1
16½	6½	Brunel	6½		9.6	3.0
107½	83½	Bullough	92½		7.8	8.7
36	17	Carbo	17½	+½	7.6	35.1
217½	87½	Carclo Engt	119	+12½	11.6	6.0
233½	172½	Castings	179½	+2	4.1	9.8
272½	172½	Chamberlin Hill	172½		8.7	7.2
780	527½	Charter	527½		6.0	17.2
175½	110½	Chemring	122		3.1	
275	60	Clyde Blowers	61½		14.1	9.7
1247½	732½	Cobham	795	-7½	2.1	20.8
430	220	Cohen (A)	227½			
157½	105½	Concentric	157½		5.9	28.6
279½	130	Cookson	133½	-6	7.3	7.7
283½	151	David Brown	280	+36½	4.1	15.1
511	282½	DS	503		3.6	17.6
36	16	Beco	21½			8.7
50	25½	Energy Tech	30½	+½	8.1	
161½	110½	Expamet	110½	-1	4.4	10.7
228½	121	FKI	121½	-½	6.2	7.6
216	130	Fenner	123½	-2½	4.4	9.5
3	1½	Ferrum	1½			11.7
40	20½	Firth Hldgs	20½		1.8	19.3
182	101½	Firth Rixson	101½	-4½	3.7	10.3
45½	10½	Flare	10½			
116	75	GEI Intl	75	-3½	6.5	6.6
206½	148½	Garton Eng	156½		6.4	5.5
331½	173	Glynwed	185	+10	8.3	7.5
159½	91½	Haden MacLn	92½		4.2	9.5
256	170	Hadleigh	182½		5.1	8.2
257	85	Hall Engt	100		10.4	4.3
140½	95½	Halma	105		3.3	12.7
83½	60½	Hampson Ind	60½		5.5	9.6
65½	32½	Hay (Norman)	46		2.7	13.1
63½	40½	Headway	52		3.8	7.0
71½	42½	Hill & Smith	45		11.7	11.1
532	277½	IMI	277½	-2	5.0	9.0
652	344	Johnson Matth	346	+½	6.1	7.3
28½	9½	Jones Stroud	9½	-1	6.6	9.1
435	255	Kelsey Ind	255		14.2	4.1
418	299½	Lincat	350		3.9	11.1
32½	22½	Locker	23		5.4	8.7
33	16½	MS Intl	18½		8.1	6.7
508½	343½	Marg Bronze	343½		3.6	14.2
589½	327	Meggitt	327	-1½	8.6	8.8
179½	109½	McLeod Russel	110	-1	8.1	7.7
242½	154	Meggitt	154	-8½	4.0	14.7
115	82½	Metalrax	86		6.0	11.7
14½	5½	MetalTech	6½			
357½	117½	Molins	140		14.0	
501½	271	Morgan Cble	271½	-3½	7.1	8.6
87½	39½	Polyhedron	86		5.5	11.3
608½	45	Powerscreen	64	-1½	20.5	1.7
330½	155½	Quadramatic	167½		7.8	8.8
52½	20½	Queensnd Grp	42½			
60	50	Radiant Metal	55			
290½	150½	Renold	153	+2½	5.9	5.9
87½	35½	Richardson West	40		14.6	4.3
309	180	Rolls-Royce	186		4.2	14.7
387	269	Rotork	293	-2	4.2	18.0
246½	140	Rubicon	227½	+1½	4.0	13.2
1425	896½	SKF B	918½	+21½	4.3	8.9
248	139½	Senior Eng	139½	-18	3.2	11.5
612½	217½	Smith Ind	242½	+2½	5.9	6.4
385	190½	Siebe	221	+12	1.8	14.6
148½	92	Sir Hundred	100		6.9	7.4
1020	615	Smiths Ind	682	+17	3.4	15.3
18½	8	Solvera	8½		4.2	
706	408	Spirax-Sarco	411	+1½	4.5	10.7
330	255	Sterling Ind	255½		5.4	8.6

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
156½	87½	Adwest	94		8.3	7.3
223	125	Airflow Stream	125	-5	8.0	12.4
701	480	Avon Rubber	487½		4.4	9.7
345	185	Brabrom	186		4.9	6.7
193½	114½	Britax	130	-1	3.0	14.4
509	251½	Dennis	400½	-2½	2.6	19.6
413½	277½	First Tech	313	-4½	2.0	
930	526½	GKN	648	-13	2.4	7.7
4671½	3406½	General Mtr	3406½	-46½	3.5	
611	414½	Henlys	454		4.5	11.5
2403½	1991½	Honda Motor	2126½	+4½	0.4	16.9
480	219	Laird	221	+2	6.5	5.8
288	191½	LucasVarity	204½	-5½	2.7	11.8
244½	157	Mayflower	162		2.3	14.4
136	95½	Sytrne	106		8.1	9.0
261	252½	T & N	259		4.4	15.0
31½	19½	Toad	20½	-½		
51½	33½	Wilshaw	33½	-½	1.7	9.7

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
670	455	AB Food	532½	+37½	2.4	16.3
270	180	Acatos & Hutch	185		7.1	
37	11	Albert Fisher	11½			4.6
285	155	Banks (S C)	174	+1	8.3	8.2
513	378½	Barr (AG)	381	+1	5.5	7.3
45	34	Bensons Crisp	41	+1	5.2	8.6
360	188	Booker	188		16.0	8.3
1077½	571½	Brake Bros	742½	-35	1.9	20.3
125	85	CPL Aromas	86½		6.8	7.5
995	600	Cadbury-Schwp	819	-16	2.3	21.3
262	95	Carrs Milling	95		15.1	4.7
345½	234½	Clarenco	302½		4.8	12.3
321	252	Dairy Crest Group	273½	-3	5.0	10.6
67	35	Danesit	35	-1½	1.8	11.6
545½	252½	Devro	252½		4.7	10.7
188½	126	Express Dairies	135½	-½	7.4	10.5
142½	55½	Fouay (James)	87		5.1	6.5
611	404	Geest	417	+1	3.0	16.7
15½	8½	Global	11½		7.6	14.7
380	222	Greencore	222		3.9	12.2
240½	164½	Hazlewood Fdst	181½	+4	5.0	13.6
214½	137½	Hillsdown	143	+1	8.3	9.0
415	368	Linton Park	368		7.6	6.4
124	86	Matthews (B)	102½		5.2	15.7
20	13	MI	13½		2.8	6.0
227½	156½	Nichols (JN)	157	-1	6.4	8.4
240	159½	Nthn Foods	183½		4.4	16.7
225½	140½	PIC Intl	140½	-2½		
146	89½	Paramount Foods	146		4.5	16.7
57	28½	Pascoe's	30½			
160½	82½	Perkins Food	132½	+1	3.5	13.8
88	55½	Ragu & Gen	58			
92	42	Sedgy Farm	52½		7.1	
39½	19½	Sims Food	30			6.1
583	415	Tate & Lyle	424	-1	4.0	9.5
167	108½	Treat	111		6.9	8.6
738½	469½	Unigate	470		5.9	10.1
741	346½	Unilever	565	+9	1.9	25.9
5053½	3560	Unilever (NV)	4046½	+25	1.7	11.0
300	180	Vad Biscuits	202	+6	6.5	14.4
62½	44½	Wl Foods	51	+½	3.7	17.0

HEALTHCARE

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
562½	318½	Alnce UniChem	477½		2.5	21.1
170	135	Assoc Nursg	157	+3½	3.2	14.8
1155	693	Bespak	925	-2½	1.9	23.4
525	61½	Biocompat Intl	69	+4		
245½	144	Care UK	177½	+2	1.0	19.1
88½	23½	Celsis	24			
550½	389½	Community H	458½	-3	3.3	16.7
37	26½	CrestaCare	31½		4.0	14.8
18½	7½	Enviromed	11			50.8
161½	122½	Ferraris Group	142½		3.0	12.4
172½	127½	Gyrus	127½			
243½	141	Huntigh Tec	221½		1.7	26.0
138½	76½	Innovative Tech	87½			
95	51	Intercare Gp	62½	+9½	6.7	35.1
593	495	Isotron	510		1.7	
231½	150	Lon Intl	186	-½	1.2	28.9
360	190½	Nestor Hlth	299½		1.6	32.1
532	320	Nycomed Amsh	377	+3	1.4	20.5
5½	5½	Premier Health	5½			
11	6½	Regina	7½			
835	501½	Seton Scholl	711½	+11½	1.8	24.5
810	427½	Shield Diag	505	+27½		
230	140	Sinclair Mont	142½		0.2	50.7
194	140	Smith & Neph	144½	-1	4.4	14.3
2½	1½	Tarpart	1½		7.3	7.9
412½	270	West Hlthcare	277½	-4	3.2	20.3

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
177½	117½	Airsprung	118½	+1	7.8	6.2
220	165	Alba	176		4.8	9.1
85	53	Albion	53		7.8	6.1
166½	115½	Alexandra	116½		7.5	9.3
187½	92½	Allied Textile	95	+2½	11.2	6.2
25½	13½	Amour	16		5.8	39.8
205	125	BLP Group	125	-2	7.8	4.5
285½	176	Baird (Wm)	177½	-½	7.3	9.1
53½	39½	Bristol Blrsea	39½		2.4	
149½	97½	Black Arrow	111½		5.8	
421½	291	Black (Peter)	291	-3	3.1	
97½	76	Brosh Mohar	85		5.9	73.3
88½	13	Claremont Gar	19½		12.8	
100	51	Coats Viyella	51½		9.1	18.6
182½	106½	Cornwell Prkr Sp	107		3.9	8.6
368	185	Courtaulds Ted	185	-1	10.3	7.0
33½	22½	Creighton	23½			
13½	4	Dalyan	4		9.4	
68½	15	Dawson	16		27.9	2.3
187½	107½	Denby Group	107½		5.6	7.9
267½	135½	Dewhirst	129½	+½	5.2	7.9
37	11½	Drummond Group	13	-½	4.8	27.9
130	95½	Eclipse Blinds	96½		4.9	8.1
42	22	Elbief	22		7.1	
131½	68	Fit Group	78	-1	8.6	5.3
34	20	Faupel Trading	24		10.9	5.6
10½	1½	Foster (J)	8	+½		
44½	24½	French	29		6.8	
502½	341½	Gaskell	400	+17	2.7	7.8
78½	39½	Haggas (J)	40		14.1	7.8
13½	8½	Hartstone Group	11		1.8	12.3
257½	97½	Hicking Pentecost	103½	-½	10.0	4.8
4	2½	Holas Group	2½			
18½	10½	Honeysuckle Grp	14			
102	62½	Horace Small	80½			
405	250	IWP Intl	252½		2.5	11.3
25½	9½	Jacques Ved	13			
25	22½	Jerome Grp	32½		13.0	11.6
320	215	Jones Stroud	215		7.0	8.5
72½	42½	Jourdan (T)	49½	-½	3.8	
134	80	Kenwood App	125			16.8
250	200	Lambert Howarth	221	-1	5.2	7.8
152	85	Lamont Hldgs	90		17.8	6.3
123	45½	Leeds Group	46½		18.8	3.4
17	7	Leslie Wise	7½		16.1	
16	9½	Lionbeat	9½		5.3	7.6
90	55	Lyles (S)	56	-½	5.6	5.7
210	159	McBride	168	-3	5.3	12.3
138	60½	Maybon	61½	-3½	16.3	4.3
650	425	Osborne & Little	440		6.5	8.2
4½	1½	PDL Group	2½		4.6	
126	23½	Parkland Group	27½		0.5	
475	400	Paterson Zch	402½		5.5	8.9
425	370	Paterson Zch A	372½		5.9	8.3
128	76½	Portland Group	78½		5.9	11.2
190	179	Pittard	199		4.1	
203	174	Pitco A Vigt	193½		4.3	
60½	31½	Pilards	32½		13.9	
44½	35½	Readicut Intl	35½		9.0	
1300	852	Reckitt Colm	940	-40	2.6	18.3
620	430½	Relyon	467½		3.9	15.1
36	15	Richards	17½		14.3	
227½	137½	Royal Doulton	139	-2	9.0	15.0
32½	20½	SEET	24½			
45½	28	Sherwood Group	29½		15.3	7.9
163½	87½	Smith	107		5.3	12.0
285	215	Silentnight	215		6.7	8.8
70½	51½	Snaw	53	-½	13.1	6.7
53	31½	Stirling Group	32		10.4	5.7
16½	3½	Stoddard Ind	5½	+½	8.5	
253	93	Stoves	96½		8.7	
278½	99½	Swallowfield	100½	-1	8.8	5.9
285½	125	Tomkinsons	126½	+½	11.4	6.4
142	105	Usher (F)	107		12.9	5.5
80	60	Victoria	70		6.2	6.5
165	110	Vymura	120		5.7	8.7
75	40	Walker Greenbk	51	-1	9.1	8.1
105	48½	Wilford Wagny	51	-1	2.8	14.3
102½	99½	Wetson	83½		7.5	7.1
195	185	Wood (Arthur)	185		4.7	12.3
140	78	Yorklyde	90	+9	6.9	14.2

INSURANCE

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4606¾	3250	Am Gen	3862½	+3½	2.3	
149½	108	Angerstein	136½		10.8	8.7
4560	3309¾	Aon Corpn	3671½	-68½	1.8	...
162	120½	Benfield & Rea	143½		5.7	15.6
65½	39½	Bradstock	45½	+1	13.2	
1364	1102½	Britannic	1199	-12	3.5	8.1
1300	707	CGU	912	+1	3.7	15.9
167	129	CLM Insce	147½		11.1	9.6
277½	200½	Charles Taylor	201½		2.9	22.9
525½	232½	Cox Insce	385		1.4	22.1
565	495	Dom & Gen	497½		2.5	18.3
159	106½	Euclidian	106½	-1½	17.6	3.2
491½	303	FBD IE	362½	-½	2.6	15.8
495	240	GRE	254½	-4½	5.3	3.9
748¼	441½	Hibernian IE	574½	-1½	2.3	11.2
261	165	Hiscox	204½	-½	2.0	25.0
397½	229	Independent	267½	+1	1.7	7.0
615½	342½	Irish Life	399	-15½	3.4	11.7
202½	151½	Jardine Lyd Th	181½	+1	6.9	12.2
195½	107	Kiln Capital	145½		11.9	10.3
129½	99½	Lambert Fent	110		6.4	8.6
796	532	Legal & Genl	672	-4½	2.5	19.6
2278½	706½	Liberty Life	787½	-3½	3.9	3.2
244	145	Lnwll	158	-1	4.7	4.2

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
678	450	3i	502½	+2½	2.6	27.8
65	30	Aberdeen Emg Ec	30½	-½		
137½	96½	Aberdeen High Inc	112½	-½	8.5	16.9
133	67½	Aberdn New Dawn	68	-½	3.0	36.2
257	166	Aberdeen Smlr	171½	+½	5.2	19.1
159½	89½	Aberforth Sm Wts	90	-½		
3090	2450	Alliance	2485	+15	3.2	37.7
747	584	Anglo & O'seas	598		2.1	53.8
74½	51	Asst Coast	52		3.8	
67	45½	Baillie Gifford SN	48½	+1½		
299	212	Bankers	218½	+4	2.7	35.6
116	59½	Baring Em Eu	61½			
142½	108½	Br Assets	109½	+½	5.7	20.2
122½	95½	Br Empire Sec	103	+½	1.3	55.8
81½	26½	Brazilian	27½		2.9	28.7
375½	278	Brunner	278½	-1½	3.1	43.7
110	74½	Caingorm Dem	79	+2	1.4	
1000	737½	Candover	752½	+7½	3.3	30.9
68½	33½	Central Euro Gwth	33½	-½		
547½	364	Chart European	419	+2½	1.7	
198	164	City Merch HY	167½	+1	7.3	13.7
281	210½	City Of Lon	218½	+1½	3.8	
77½	69½	Danae Inv Inc	71	+1	14.5	9.1
635	462½	Derby Cap	485	+11		
156	124½	Derby Inc	125	-½	16.6	3.9
104	54½	Dresdner RCM Emg	54½	-1½		
242½	159½	Dres RCM Smlr	160½	-½	2.0	60.8
220½	174½	Dunedin Inc G	181½	+½	3.9	28.4
467	284½	Dunedin Smlr	290½		4.5	24.7
60½	31	Edin Dragon	31½	+½		
39½	14½	Edinburgh Inca	14½	-1		
519	397½	Edinburgh IT	398½	-½	3.6	27.5
105	79	Edin Japan	81½	-½		
560	424½	Edin US Tk	447½	+1½	1.1	
673	527	Electra Inv	532	-4½	2.4	37.5
189½	133	Eng & Scot	134½	-½	3.5	28.9
605½	374	European Asset	466½	-2½	1.0	
70½	31½	Fidelity Asian Val	32½	+½		
398	274½	Fidelity Euro Val	277		0.2	
32½	25	Fidelity Jap Val	27½			
177½	124½	Fidelity Spec Val	125½	+½	1.3	62.7
281	215	Fosbury A	216½		2.3	
223	157	Finsbury Gwth	165	+3	2.7	46.3
155½	79½	Five Arr Chile	79½	-1½	2.3	48.3
18½	0½	Five Arr Wts	1			
649½	510	Fleming Amer	514½	+½	0.5	
64	29½	Fleming Asian	31½			
12½	5	Fleming Asian Wts	6½			
64½	24	Fleming Chinese	25½	+½		
27½	7½	Fleming Ch Wts	9	+½		
507½	401½	Fleming Claver	414	-2½	2.1	57.4
707½	471	Fleming Contl	524½	+½	0.7	
134	61½	Fleming Em Mkts	62	-½		
392½	262½	Fleming Enlp	265	+1½	2.5	
411	307	Flem Grd Gth Ord	321½	-2	1.1	
164½	143½	Flem Grd Gth Pf	164½		9.9	
132½	102½	Fleming Inc Cap	115½			
114½	105½	Fleming Ing Inct	110½	-½	11.2	10.2
350½	246½	Fleming Ing Cap	266½	+½		
50½	30½	Fleming Indian	31½			
12½	4	Fleming In Wts	5½	+½		
167½	110	Fleming Japan	122½	+1½		
478	313½	Fleming Merc	314	-2½	4.4	38.5
92	47	Fleming Nat Res	51½	+2½	0.5	
438½	330½	Fleming Overs	336	+2	1.7	73.4
200½	120½	Fleming Smlr Co	125		4.5	36.3
506½	296	Fleming US Disc	286½	-6½	0.4	
210½	159½	Foreign & Col	163½	+2½	1.9	57.2
127½	97	F&C Inc Gwt	99		4.6	35.5
107½	34½	F&C Emg Mkts	34½	-1½		
302½	185	F&C Enterprise	215½	-1	2.3	46.6
577	361½	F&C Eurotst	428	-1	0.7	
131	85	F&C Pacific	89		2.6	46.4
182½	144½	F&C PEP	155		3.7	33.8
227	160½	F&C Smaller	162½	+½	2.3	41.8
179½	133	F&C US Smlr	125½	+1		
70½	60½	Framlin Inc	68		9.7	11.5
173½	109	Framlin Cap	114	+2		
295	107	Framl Dual Cp	114	+½		
63½	38½	Fulcrum Cap	40	-½		
22½	9½	Fulcrum Inc	10½		105.4	0.9
197½	188	Fulcrum Zero	197			
335	270½	Gartmore Brit	295	+2	3.5	31.9
360	242½	Gartmore Euro	282½	-½	0.6	
158	110	Gartmore Shard	139½	-½	9.1	13.6
482½	282½	G'more Smlr Coc	289½		2.8	42.6
86½	52½	Geared Inc Ord	62		9.0	11.0
62	51½	Geared Inc Inc	56½		8.9	10.0
108	101	Geared Inc 0 Pf	107			
103	31	Gov Asn Sm Cos	34½		2.0	54.4
92½	38½	Gov Emg Mkts	41½	-½	1.5	54.4
98½	77	Govett High Inct	79½		8.8	
108½	55½	Govett Oriental	58	+1½	1.5	46.8
499	346	Govett Strategic	347	-½	2.8	32.8
35½	19½	Greenham House	30½		1.6	3.3
147½	110½	GT Inc Growth	113½	-½	3.7	25.0
180½	120	GT Japan	134	+1½		
156½	114½	Gart Fl Ex Inc	134½		7.7	
79	61	Henderson Am Cp	63½	+½		
122½	112	Henderson Am Ia	118½	-½	8.2	13.0
46	29	Henderson Am Wt	33½			
374	281½	Hend Elec Gent	286½	+1	1.7	59.1
132½	74½	Hend Far East	76½	+½	11.1	10.9
580	452	Hend Gmbau	570		1.7	71.5
183	141	Hend High Inct	142	-½	6.0	19.4
42½	29½	Hend Jap Smlr	30½			
300	206½	Hend Smlr	207½	-1½	2.4	66.2
632½	472	Hend Strat	473½	-9	0.1	
69½	36½	Hend TR Pac	39½	+½	0.8	57.0
126½	88½	Hend Tech	96	+½		
203½	136½	Herald	143	-1½	0.7	
133½	105	High Income T	118½	+½	7.7	13.9
174½	127½	H Gowett Smlr	128½	+½	3.6	33.5
196½	121½	I&S UK Smlr	124½	+½	2.9	42.4
214½	162	Inv Capt	167	+2	4.4	25.2
97	30½	Int Biotech	33½			
20	1½	Int Biotec Wts	1½			
59½	27	INVESCO Asia	27½		2.9	36.1
217½	117	INVESCO Eng Inc	122½	+1½	1.4	38.6
36½	25½	INVESCO Jap Dis	26½			
49½	25½	INVESCO Korea	37½			
33½	20½	INVESCO Tokyo	22½	+½		
107½	83½	JF Fleng Jap	88½			
228	135	J Fry Euro U	182	-1	3.6	
155½	65½	J Fry Unit	121½		5.8	14.6
92½	79½	J Fry Util Inct	87½		8.0	63.5
150	121½	Jupiter Ex Inct	127	-1	7.8	16.1
43½	19½	Jupiter Ex IncW	24½			
105	91	Jupiter Gbl Capt	95		11.8	10.0
51½	41	Jupiter Gbl Pfd	43½			
160½	135½	Jupiter Intl Grnt	141½		3.6	
872½	518	Jupiter Prima	642½	-2½	1.2	77.1
180½	164½	Kleinwt End	179½			
202½	89	Korea—Euro	103	+½	1.2	61.6
132	46½	Latin American	52½			
1289	983	Law Debenture	995½	-5½	3.7	27.7
121½	111½	Lde Oll Opp	116			
161½	104	Lloyds Sm Cap	104½	-1		
22	16	Lloyds Sm Div	18½		29.8	4.2
178	123	Lloyds Sm Pkg	133	-2	4.4	
217½	173½	Lon St Lawrence	178½	-2	4.9	
429	309½	Lowland	326½	+1	4.5	28.0
812½	797½	M&G 2nd Dual Cp	800			
51½	50	M&G 2nd Dual Inc	50			
101	75½	M&G Inc Geared	81½	-½	9.4	14.4
78½	54	M&G Inc Inv Tst Cp	58½	-½		
28½	20	M&G Inc Inv Tst Inc	22½			3.6
183½	150½	M&G Inc Package	158½	+½	4.8	
85	77½	M&G Inc Zero Dv	81			
70½	31	M&G Rec Cap	33	-½		
95½	53½	M&G Rec Geared	58	-1	13.0	
28	21	M&G Rec Inc	22½			4.1
206	160	M&G Rec Pkge	170	-1½	4.4	
115½	108½	M&G Rec Zero Dv	114	-½		
243½	180½	M Currie Euro	180	+½	0.6	
84½	53½	M Currie Japan	58½	+½		
125½	73½	M Currie Pac	76½	+½	3.1	30.7
366½	292½	Majedie	308	-½	2.8	46.8
385½	332½	Merchants	357½	+5½	5.5	24.0
180	126½	Mercury Euro Pv	128½	+½	2.6	30.7
98	50½	Mercury Eur Wt	56½	+½		
74½	40½	Mercury World	46½	+2½	2.2	50.6
833	677½	Monks Inv Tst	690½	+5	1.6	56.4
208½	158	Morg Gren Inc	164½	-½	5.3	23.0
106½	62½	Morg Wts	63			
82	35½	Morg Latn Amer	35½	-1½	1.4	51.7
32½	9½	Morg Wts	9½	-1		
142½	95½	Murray Ent	97½	-2	4.9	33.4
29½	6	Murray Ent Wts	7			
71	24½	Murray Emg Eco	26½	-½	2.6	33.0
11½	2	Murray Em Ec Wt	2½			
538	400½	Murray Income	416	+2	4.4	39.4
505	379½	Murray Intl	384	+1½	4.8	25.4
434½	275	Murray Smallr	275	-3	2.8	33.7
83	70½	Murray Ventures IT	72½			
294	271½	Natwest Ent	273	-½	2.8	35.3
5½	2½	Newmarket	2½			
56½	26	Pacific Assets	26½	+½	1.9	55.4
140½	83	Perpetual Euro	98½		0.6	
156½	115½	Perp Inc Gth	115½	-2	4.4	
37	22½	Perpetual Jap	25½			
424½	280½	Perp Uk Sm Co	282½	-1	3.1	36.1
£200½	£168	Personal Assets	£171	-150	1.8	48.0
159	110	Prolific Inc	112		4.8	24.0
380½	270	RIT Cap Ptnr	300½	-1½	0.8	
558¼	516½	Robeco	551	-½	2.0	61.4
566	524	Rolinco	558½	-½	0.8	
59½	25½	Schrd Asia Pac	28½	-½	2.2	
73	33½	Schrd Emg Cos	34½			
165½	126½	Schrod Inc Gwth	127	-2½	4.5	22.8
61½	41	Schrod Jap Gwth	43½	-½		
382½	141½	Schrod Korea	164½	+½		
93½	36	Schrod Spld Cap	46	-1		
135	114½	Schrod Split Inc	118	-½	9.1	14.1
160	154½	Schrod Split Zero	159½			
179½	125½	Schrod UK Gwth	129	-½	3.5	30.6
190½	149	Schrod Vent Intl	151	-1	1.5	
388	303½	Scot	313½	-½	2.4	49.9
233	183½	Scot American	197½	+1	3.6	32.7
144½	77½	Scot Asian	77½			
140½	103½	Scot Eastern	109½	+1½	2.5	41.2
401	256	Scot Mrge	299½	+1½	2.2	49.8
113½	100½	Scot Nat Tst	102½	-½	12.0	10.8
153	116½	Scot Value	117	-½	2.1	24.5
2735	2147½	Second Alince	2170	+7½	3.1	40.6
133½	96½	Secs Tst of Scot	98½	+½	4.9	24.2
287	132½	Shires Smlr	135	-1½	5.8	21.1
183½	126½	Smaller Cost	127½	-½	3.2	45.6
399	319½	St Andrew Inct	319½	-1	3.9	31.3
619	484	Temple Bar	514	+1	4.5	25.8
103½	68½	Throgmorton	68½	-1½	4.3	30.2
125½	56½	Tplton Emg Mkt	61½		2.2	43.0
276½	167½	TR Euro Growth	198½	+½	0.6	
50½	34½	TR Property	35½	+½	3.9	35.6
412½	374	TR Tech Emt	400		41.9	32.0
621½	468½	Tribune	475½		2.0	52.6
169½	124½	Undervalued Ast	135½		2.3	31.8
167	122½	Value Inc Tst	122½		4.9	22.7
139	102½	Value Real	109½	-½	1.4	
56	39½	Warrants & Val	40			
110½	75½	Wigmore	77		1.1	
402½	310	Witan	314	+3½	2.9	38.8
74½	60	Yeoman Inct	61			3.9

MEDIA

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
445	278	Abbot Mead	375½		2.9	21.5
179½	110½	Adscene	111½		10.6	3.5
112½	64½	Aegis Gp	80½	+½	8.8	23.0
154	66½	Aspen Grp	71		4.4	
195	128½	Atlantic Telecom	121½			
255	185	Barbour Index	200		6.6	22.2
3½	0½	Bidzale	1			
400	320	Black (A&C)	366		4.3	14.6
370½	267½	Border TV	333	-1½	2.9	26.6
515	410	Bristol	435		4.5	10.7
310½	129½	Brit Airctn	227½	+4	1.2	
594	333	BSkyB	452	-5	3.1	31.9
747½	497	Capital Radio	564	-1	3.1	17.6
596	380	Carlton Comm	393	-9½	4.1	11.2
437½	145	Character Grp	285	+2½	2.1	11.3
63	48	Clarie Comms	54		4.4	14.6
812½	602½	Chrysalis	630	-5	0.5	
92½	77	Cin of Lon	82½		9.3	12.2
120	63½	Copyright Proms	107½			
137	88	Coeclent Comms	137½		1.1	15.1
231½	143½	Creative Pub	228½		3.1	13.1
3184½	3084½	Daily Mail	2425	-37½	1.2	29.1
3250	2000	Daily Mail A	2140½	-78½	1.4	23.4
343½	129½	Dialog	171	+2½		
267	149	Dorling Kind	162½		3.5	34.5
485	365½	Dudley Jenkins	347½		2.5	
1317½	879	EMAP	930	+35	2.0	20.7
685	4	EMI	419	-15	3.8	21.2
1117½	736½	Elsevier	818½	+5½	3.5	55.6
2412½	1495	Euromoney Pt	1782½		1.7	17.9
69	50½	Fern	59		1.5	15.5
581	482	Flextech	562½	-3½		
245	155½	GWR Gp	215½		1.3	28.4
385	157½	Grampian Group	185		4.9	9.2
55½	33½	Goodhead	35½		1.3	11.1
560	280	HIT Entr	497	-2½	1.1	61.9
297½	222½	Haynes Pub	255		6.1	9.4
14½	9½	Harpers Hse	10	-½		6.9
260	204	Hodder Hline	210		3.9	15.2
437	365	ISC	405		2.4	13.3
93½	32½	ITE Group	33		1.4	4.7
30½	18½	Incents	27½	-½	2.3	9.8
397½	212½	Independent	215	-12½	4.1	14.6
89½	40½	Ind Public Rel	57	-2	4.8	51.5
162	107	Interscope	126½		5.4	7.3
250	180½	Johnston Press	172	-6½	2.9	13.3
366½	152½	LLP Green	182½		3.3	13.7
59½	30	Lopex	43	-½	2.5	6.2
472½	210	Marler	255	-5	2.2	14.6
38½	10½	Mediaivs	11		3.1	
1422	943	Metal Bulletin	1218	-10	3.4	23.7
249	163	Meno Gp	163		3.3	12.7
501½	333	News Corp	363½	-6½	0.2	17.5
446½	232½	News Corp Pfd	232½	-4½	0.3	
337½	222½	Newscorp	224		4.1	10.5
15½	11½	Osprey Comms	11			
1200	775	Pearson	845	-17	2.2	24.2
56½	29½	Flexatex	36			
1225	867½	Premier Sate	1107½			
115½	51½	Quarto	51		1.9	5.5
733	430	Reed Intl	434	-21	3.7	34.6
770	452	Reuters	486	-18	3.4	17.7
185	130½	Saatchi	162½		2.0	13.7
830	604½	Scot Med	611½	-3	4.6	15.6
527	375	Scot Radio	384½		1.4	15.7
8	6½	Storey Fin	6½			
550	307½	Scotmeas	316	-2	3.2	15.8
25	12½	Sterling Pub	12½		8.1	6.2
79½	42½	Taylor	43			
145½	55½	Taylor Nelson	105	-½	2.6	33.0
273	178	Television Cp	193	-2	3.4	13.2
289½	162½	Tempus Gp	213	-5	1.5	21.7
1920	1219½	Thomson Corp	1337½	-41	1.5	21.2
273	441	Trinity	441	-12½	2.5	12.0
245	178	Ulster TV	176½		3.3	13.8
953	610	United News	620	-7	3.8	15.6
115½	47½	VCI	49½		1.5	30.3
127½	75½	VTR	75½		5.2	13.8
488	340	WPP	330	-½	0.3	28.0
225	122½	Wilmington	150		1.1	28.7

OIL & GAS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
221½	155½	Abbot Group	159	-15	2.2	18.4
32½	19½	Alliance Res	32½			
64½	30½	Amber	30½			
77	40½	Aus Oil & Gas	45	+2	3.1	16.0
27½	5½	Aviva Pet	6			
430	212½	Br Borneo	240	+13½	1.4	43.0
398	265	BG	357	+3	2.8	34.0
972	708½	Br Petroleum	767	+30	3.7	20.6
1½	0½	Bula Resources	1			
1340	895	Burmah Castl	926	+6	4.4	13.6
496½	103½	Cairn Energy	114	+8		47.0
119	80½	Centrica	92	+1		
14½	3½	Coplex Res	3½			
22½	8½	Dana Pet	8½			
72½	17½	Dragon Oil	19			68.5
28½	15½	Euro Oil & Gas	15½		2.4	
10	5½	Emerald Energy	6½	+½		
697	317	Enterprise	350½	+25½	5.8	69.8
14½	6½	Fortune	6½			24.9
294½	163½	Hardy Oil	163½	-2½	0.8	34.5
47½	21½	JKX Oil & Gas	21½			
430	155	KBC Adv Tech	192		2.6	17.2
305	150	LASMO	158	+4	1.5	
42½	27½	Lasmo Units	29½		29.5	
83	27½	Monument	34½	+½		13.9
3118½	2084½	Norsk Hydro	2178½	+93½	2.7	13.4
133½	69	Oil Search	79½	+1½		
58	18½	Paladin Res	21½	-½		
58½	24½	Petroz	24½			
54½	24½	Premier	26½	+1½	2.9	5.6
449	314	Ranger	359½	+30½	5.3	6.5
3616¾	2596½	Royal Dtch Fl	2868¾	+165½	3.4	21.1
5142½	2628½	Schlumberger	2825	+96½	1.5	
489½	372	Shell	361½	-3½	4.0	20.3
379½	45½	Soco Intl	65	-½		7.3
6187½	3646½	Total	6552½	-640½	2.1	
332½	167½	XCL	167½			

OTHER FINANCIAL

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
154	87½	Aberdeen Asset	93½	+½	5.3	35.3
775	417	AMVESCAP	430	+5	1.6	23.9
256	129½	BNDt	172½	+2½	6.4	10.4
55½	42½	Berry Bch Stk	45½		6.9	
294	170	Biotech Inv	180			
470	245½	Brewin Dolphin	252½	-2½	3.5	12.9
975	725	Cazenove	751½	-1	3.4	23.3
4580	2330	Camedia	3800		1.2	9.7
683	398½	Cattles	472½	+9	2.3	26.0
57½	37½	Christies	42½		4.4	9.1
933	526½	Close Bros	583½		2.7	17.2
613	432½	EFM	432½	-2½	7.2	10.4
32½	20	Erco	22		4.1	
42½	19½	Fishers Intl	38½		2.2	20.4
219½	144½	Friends Prov Sme	146		6.3	13.0
485½	292	Gerrard	297½		7.1	8.9
194	154½	Hambros	182½		1.2	66.3
272½	148½	Hitachi Cred	235½		2.9	19.3
225	145	Investment Co	220		2.5	13.4
177½	99½	Jardine Strat	99½	-5½	14.5	4.6
164½	111½	Jonson Fin	113½		4.4	
545	570	Leopold JF	620	-7½	4.1	23.9
619½	443½	Liberty Intl	443½	-3	3.2	16.3
476½	100	Lon Forfaitng	112½		13.7	3.8
260½	169½	London Pacific	171½	-2½	10.1	6.2
165	105	Lon Scot Bk	105½	-½	4.1	18.1
373	232½	Man ED & Ft	323½	-3½	4.5	12.8
1545	1352½	M & G	1320	+12½	3.9	20.4
253	152½	Paragon	165	-1	2.7	6.5
4537½	2682½	Perpetual	3217½	-20	2.7	19.7
1236	765	Provident	909	+45	3.0	24.1
647½	430	Rathbone Bros	462½		3.8	15.5
69½	48½	Rea Brothers	51½		2.5	9.2
65	47½	Rutland Tst	47½		4.5	10.8
107½	56	SFC Group	55½	-½	11.3	14.6
361½	261½	S & U	275		8.6	8.2
2026	1159½	Schroders	1290	+39	1.5	22.1
1775	850	Schroders N/V	1037	-108	1.8	17.8
795	605	Secure Tst Banking	612½		4.7	12.4
185½	114	Singer & Fried	115	-1	6.2	7.5
67½	47½	Townsley Law	48½			
5½	3½	Tor Hldgs	4½			
81½	57	Union	65½			
91	46½	Versailles Grp	66½	-2	0.8	32.4
492½	334½	Wecourt	392½		4.8	14.7

PHARMACEUTICALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
156	27	Brit Biotech	29½	+½		
320	225	Cantab Pharms	227½	-1		
287½	197½	Celltech	277½	+32½		
356½	135	Chiroscience	201	-4½		
221	225½	Core Group	66			
206	43	Cortecs	55½	+3		
2003	1650	Glaxo Wellc	1814	+26	1.9	30.4
240	182½	Gyrocheck	212	+2½	0.7	18.5
155	54½	ML Laboratories	61½	-5		
195	94	Medeva	95		5.9	4.7
280	101	Oxford Molecular	110			
340	82	Peptide Thera	90	-6½		
151½	47½	Phytopharm	125	-½		
513½	194½	Powderject	339	-6		
89½	31	Proteus Intl	32½	-½		
[illegible]	62	[illegible]	50½	-½	6.6	9.9
181½	94½	[illegible] Health	95½	-½		
334½	195½	Scotia	201	-4		
549	235	Shire Pharms	279	-9		
103½	47½	SkyePharma	54½	-2½		
962	634	SmithKline	705	+25	1.6	33.9
[illegible]	39	[illegible]	86½			
552½	135	Vanguard	311½	+41½		
[illegible]	[illegible]	Vanguard Arz	29½	+4½		
145	[illegible]	Xenova	57½			
2885	2258	Zeneca	2192	-8	2.2	28.3

PRINTING & PAPER

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
136	92	AG Holdings	136		5.7	20.1
545	402	API	402½		3.9	10.9
[illegible]	63½	[illegible]	90	-½		42.5
155	123½	Arjo Wiggins	123½	-3	6.6	6.3
456½	342½	Bemrose	343	-3	5.9	9.1
3571½	2212½	Bowater Inc	2212½	-38½		
215½	152½	Cascade Intl	152½		2.7	9.4
327	217½	[illegible]	318	-1	7.9	7.7
345½	219½	Bunzl	229½	-1	3.1	12.4
165½	71½	[illegible] Inns	78½	+5	9.7	8.1
261½	196½	Cropper (James)	196½		1.2	11.0
272	228½	De La Rue	219	+½	6.6	8.1
274½	201½	[illegible] Pack	202½		5.1	9.5
125	42½	Ferguson Intl	45		12.5	
197½	134½	[illegible]	136	-½	3.5	14.2
[illegible]	47½	[illegible]	46½	-1	15.2	25.1
[illegible]	125½	[illegible]	137		7.1	6.9
[illegible]	15½	[illegible]	16½		4.5	6.7
[illegible]	213	Low & Bonar	214		8.1	6.3
25½	5½	Lowe (Robert)	6½		8.5	2.4
[illegible]	62½	MY Holdings	63½	-½	5.4	8.5
[illegible]	79½	Macfarlane	80		7.2	7.9
347½	162	[illegible]	209	-1	0.9	34.6
[illegible]	140½	[illegible]	156		6.7	10.7
[illegible]	13½	Porter Chadburn	21		5.4	6.2
222½	195½	REXAM	195½	-1½	7.5	7.9
197½	154½	RPC	160		3.6	11.7
547½	362½	St Ives Gp	365½		4.1	10.9
[illegible]	185½	[illegible]	193½	-3½	3.6	
[illegible]	14½	Security & General	15½			
124½	69½	Sidlaw	81	+1½	3.9	9.3
257½	122	Smith David	122	-2	8.4	10.2
[illegible]	36½	Smurfit (Jeff)	96½	-2½	4.6	
[illegible]	90	[illegible]	93½		4.4	10.0
215½	133½	Tinsley Robor	213½		1.9	18.3
45½	16	Wace	27			
307½	227½	Waddington	230		6.2	9.4
320½	220	[illegible]	228½		3.4	12.0

MINING

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3440½	2275	Ang Am Coal	2271½	-35	5.8	7.7
3553½	1465½	Ang Am	1656	-21½	4.4	8.1
3268½	1931	Ang Am Gold	1931½	-53½	5.9	
971½	634½	Anglo Am Plat	847½	-52½	3.2	
3382½	2040½	Anglogold	2150	-12½	7.3	12.1
22½	13½	Anglo Pac Gp	14	-½		22.4
31½	16½	Arcon Intl	16½			
649½	358½	Ashanti	359	-7½	2.2	12.3
187½	98½	Billiton	122	+9	4.5	12.2
35	28½	Bouchi	29½		3.8	9.9
20½	12	Bougainville	12½	-1½		
299½	137½	Central Pacific	140½	+½		
50	21½	Cons Murchison				0.7
1609½	709½	De Beers	750	-12½	6.2	5.4
426½	198	Driefontein	261½	+22½	3.2	
225½	88	Durban	129½	-14½		
18½	10½	E Rand Prop	13½	-1		22.9
273½	144½	Eng China Cl	146½	+7½	11.1	6.8
168½	92	Evander	120	+½	10.4	
385½	92	FS Cons	244½	+½	12.4	8.1
71½	17	FS Dev	20½	-3½		
1103½	512½	GFSA	625	+68½	3.6	15.3
148½	85½	Gencor	94	-3½	5.3	
41	14½	Greenwich R A	16½	-1½		
356½	112½	Harmony	241½	+22½		7.6
793½	443½	Impala Pla	687½	+65½	5.1	9.3
13½	8½	Kenmare Res	9½			
33½	14	Kidston	17½	+½		
369	220	Lonmin	239	-11	8.6	9.5
11½	4½	Meekatharra	5	-½		
42	24½	MIM	27	+½		
1175	516½	Minorco	662½	+3½	5.9	8.1
137	65	Montedison	125		3.8	
73½	34½	Normandy	37½	-2½	5.7	8.3
177½	105½	North	115½	+5½	1.0	19.5
60	15½	Petaling Tin	17½		2.7	
111	48½	RGC	80½	-4½	4.4	4.7
170	80	RJB	102	-4½	24.5	1.3
29½	15½	Rockwood	15½		26.6	3.3
195½	77½	Randfontein	136½	+16½	3.5	17.7
121½	34½	Reunion Mng	35			
898	535	Rio Tinto	607	+23	5.3	11.4
871	574½	Rio Tinto Ltd	621	+9½	4.0	16.9
8½	2½	St Barbara	2½	+½		
191	120½	St Helena	146½	+½	17.4	2.5
192½	135	Sons Gwalia	149½	+7½	6.0	11.8
130½	55½	Smorn Pacific	55½	+½		
228½	150½	WMC	164½	+8½	2.6	23.0
27	8½	Wankie Col Z	8½	+½	5.7	8.3
67½	20½	Water Hall	28½			30.5
443	372	Wats Blake	372½		5.9	11.1
149	83	Zambia Copper	86½	+½		

PROPERTY

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
116½	59	Allied Lon	70		7.3	5.1
195	127	Asco	128		3.0	14.1
36½	26½	Ashquay Gp	28½		0.9	47.7
180½	125½	Asticon Hldgs	129½		4.8	20.0
275½	167½	Benchmark	168½		1.2	16.3
298½	186½	Bilton	207½		6.6	15.1
206½	149	Birdby	178½		6.5	10.2
5½	1½	Bolton Gp	2½			
64	42½	Bourne Endt	43		3.5	46.5
322½	212½	Bradford	214		5.3	14.4
825	487½	Br Land	533½	+5½	2.2	29.3
255	169½	Brixton	171½		6.4	12.1
132	87½	Burford	94	-1	3.2	29.2
149	108	CLS Hldgs	109½		6.6	13.1
318½	197½	Cap & Regnl	203	+½	2.1	19.9
460	337½	Cap Shop Cist	348	+8	3.5	21.4
355½	261½	Cardiff Prop	271½		1.5	38.3
19	9½	Carlisle	11½			79.1
13½	6½	Carroll Intl	7			
418½	232½	Chelsfield	252	+1	1.6	29.6
687½	510	Chesterfield	511	-1½	3.3	27.2
37	15½	Chesterton Intl	16			
166½	101½	City North	103½	+1	2.7	26.0
53½	22½	City Site Ests	22½			
107	73	Clarefield Tst	74		10.5	13.7
99½	78½	CNC Props	80		5.2	8.3
264½	185½	Compco	198½		2.8	16.3
1710	1390	Daejan	1590		3.8	13.0
21	8½	Dares Estates	8½			
126½	79	Debenham Tewson	81½		5.4	6.1
163½	69½	Delancey Ests	95½		2.1	
232½	192½	Denora	211		2.9	13.1
598	405	Derwent Hldgs	406		2.1	20.1
355	252½	Development Sec	254	-3½	1.5	5.7
430	410	Estates Agency	425		5.4	19.3
91½	55	Estates Gen	62		2.0	17.4
176½	99	Evans Of Leeds	102½		4.6	13.9
46½	36½	Fletcher King	41½		7.8	12.2
71½	61½	Folkes Group	63½		4.1	6.2
71½	57½	Folkes Group nv	61		4.3	5.9
540	379½	Frogmore	384		6.6	10.0
19	9	Golden Land Inv	9			
370	286½	Grainger	290	-2	3.3	13.9
296	204	Gt Portland	305		5.5	30.5
200½	120	Grantchester	126	+3½	1.4	36.7
352½	171½	Greycoat	174½	+1	1.1	38.0
152	81½	Hambro Countrywide	91	+4	4.1	9.2
537½	384	Hammerson	407½	+2	3.5	21.0
33½	18½	Hampton Trust	19			
692½	505	Helical Bar	515		2.2	10.1
50	30½	Hemingway	30½		2.6	25.7
130½	48	HK Land	51½	+2½	14.0	5.5
352	200	Jermyn	240		3.1	59.8
183½	94	LSH	135	-½	4.2	8.7
113½	84½	Lands Imp	94½		6.3	
1190	800	Land Sec	899	+4	3.9	24.2
39½	27	Lon & Assoc	27		4.2	11.3
141½	108½	Lon Merch Sec	110½	-½	6.0	14.8
650	439	MEPC	496		4.6	16.5
119½	87	MWB Group	87		5.4	
162	125	McKay Secs	126½		4.8	16.2
97½	62½	Marmale Mre	62½		4.5	5.6
368	246½	Milner Est	260	+4	2.6	
247½	161½	Minerva	161½		1.3	
36½	25	Moorfield Est	27		2.5	30.4
1900	1681½	Mountview	1825		3.3	10.7
180	128	Mucklow (A&J)	133		6.7	14.8
49	31	OEM	32			63.2
74½	44	ORB	45			19.6
727½	570	Peel	617½	-2½	1.7	
353	270½	Pillar Prop	271½		2.7	50.9
13½	5½	Probus Estates	6½			
204½	144½	Quintain	146½	-1	3.4	21.8
29½	22	Raglan	22½		7.2	9.9
36	22	Regalian	24½		5.4	11.4
202½	134½	Rugby Est	135½		2.4	12.2
81½	61	St Modwen Prpt	82	+½	6.2	7.5
73	52½	Samlo Grant	56½	+1½	7.0	16.7
149	94	Savills	100	+1	5.9	8.1
113	80½	Scot Met	81½		4.8	14.5
246	164	Shaftesbury	165	+1	1.8	38.6
414½	297½	Slough Estates	310½		3.3	19.7
287½	237½	Smart (J)	247½		5.0	9.2
130½	87	TBI	90	+½	2.4	21.5
203½	138½	Teps Estst	140		2.1	24.1
118	72½	Town Centre	77½	+1½	6.3	9.7
203½	149½	Trafford Park	173½		2.9	18.0
103½	73½	UK Land	76½	+1	6.6	6.0
278½	221½	Warner	222½		7.3	14.8
263	235	Warnford	240		4.1	14.5
110½	72	Watts	72½	-1		33.5
453½	345½	Workspace Grp	407½		5.2	14.6

LEISURE & HOTELS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
29½	11	AB Leis	13½		15.1	
543½	333½	Airtours	333½	-11	2.6	17.4
33	19½	Ald Leis	21		6.1	6.6
21	12½	Arena Leis	13½			27.6
157½	110	BS Group	113		5.5	
170	110	Baldwin	170		2.9	
120	82	Bluebird Toys	114½		10.4	10.5
800	430	Boosey Hwks	455		2.8	26.2
35½	27½	Boradene	29	-½	9.7	6.9
158½	52½	Capital Corpn	55	+1½	11.6	4.8
104½	55	Cliveden	93½		2.7	21.3
109½	70½	Clubhaus	83½	+2½		22.7
305	119	ENIC	119	-2½		
318	205	Eurocamp	206	-4	7.1	7.2
110½	67	Euro Disney	93½			
146½	103½	Euro Leisure	103½		5.1	6.6
168½	96½	First Choice	108	+1	3.4	15.3
437½	226½	First Leisure	227	-2	5.1	11.9
159½	110½	Friendly Hotels	130	-½	5.9	9.5
1217	700	Granada	830	+28	2.3	15.7
51½	32½	Hi-Tec Sports	33½		5.6	6.2
289	200½	Holmes Place	202	+½	1.9	24.2
282½	165½	Hornby	209½		4.2	9.8
373	212½	Horolock	231½		6.1	13.2
200	101	Jarvis Hotels	101½	-3	5.5	6.1
565½	351½	Jurys Hotel	375½	-14	2.5	12.5
37½	24½	Kunick	25½		4.1	11.6
370	224	Ladbroke	228	-1	3.1	14.8
328½	127½	London Clubs	130½	-½	6.6	9.6
243½	167½	Macdonald Hts	167½		3.7	11.4
169½	123½	Man Utd	159	+½	1.3	25.5
59½	28	Mandarin Orntl	29½	-½	7.1	6.4
620½	363½	Millennium & Copt	364½		3.1	13.1
1½	0½	Mulhall Hldgs	0½			
102½	56½	Newcastle Utd	62½		3.2	6.7
300	92	Northern	105	-3½	4.8	12.9
78½	44½	Prism Leisure	67½	+12½	11.8	6.3
30	19½	Queensborough	23		2.2	8.9
43½	12½	Queens Moat	23½	-½		5.1
421	250	Rank Grp	264	+10	8.1	9.8
49	30	Regal Hotel	33		5.1	6.4
84½	50½	Ryan Hotels IE	55	-1	4.4	
51½	19½	Sheffield United	20½			
252½	123½	Sinclair (Wm)	124½		9.1	6.0

BRITISH FUNDS

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
100½	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100		7.25	7.65
105⅞	100¼	Treas 15½% 1998	100⅜	-⅛	15.43	6.40
104⅝	100½	Exch 12% 1998	100⅞	-⅛	11.90	7.00
102⅝	100⅜	Treas 9½% 1999	100⅝		9.43	7.13
106⅝	102⅜	Exch 12¼% 1999	102⅝	-⅛	11.92	7.02
104⅞	102¼	Treas 10½% 1999	102⅝	-⅛	10.26	7.00
99⅞	98½	Treas 6% 1999	99⅛		6.04	6.74
106⅜	103⅝	Conv 10¼% 1999	104⅛	-⅛	9.85	6.61
105⅛	102⅝	Conv 9% 2000	103½		8.70	6.52
104⅝	102⅜	Treas 8% 2000	103⅝		7.72	6.21
103⅞	101⅞	Treas 8½% 2000	102⅝		8.29	6.52
114⅞	110⅝	Treas 13% 2000	111⅛	-⅛	11.68	6.43
109⅝	107⅝	Treas 10% 2001	108⅝		9.22	6.22
102⅞	100⅞	Treas 7% 2001	102⅛		6.82	6.03
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
103⅝	101⅝	Treas 7% 2002	103⅝		6.75	5.87
113⅞	111⅜	Treas 9¾% 2002	113⅞	-⅛	8.60	5.92
109⅝	106⅝	Treas 8% 2003	109⅛		7.31	5.71
118⅝	115⅝	Treas 10% 2003	118⅛	-⅛	8.45	5.73
114⅞	110⅝	Treas 11½% 2001-04	112⅞	-⅛	10.26	6.21
94⅝	90⅝	Fund 3½% 1999-04	94⅛	+⅛	3.69	4.52
120⅝	116⅝	Conv 9½% 2004	119⅛	-⅛	7.90	5.64
108⅝	107⅝	Treas 6¾% 2004	106⅝	-⅛	6.35	5.52
117⅞	113⅝	Treas 8½% 2005	117⅞	-⅛	7.24	6.53
121½	117½	Conv 9½% 2005	121½	-⅛	7.84	5.02
130⅞	127⅝	Treas 12½% 2003-05	130⅛	-⅛	9.60	5.70
113⅜	107⅞	Treas 7½% 2006	113⅜	-⅛	6.62	5.47
114⅛	108⅝	Treas 7¾% 2006	114⅛	-⅛	6.78	5.51
107⅛	104⅛	Treas 8% 2002-06	107⅛		7.46	5.96
123⅞	119⅝	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	122⅞	-⅛	9.60	5.92
121⅝	115	Treas 8½% 2007	121⅝	-⅛	7.00	5.47
114½	108⅞	Treas 7¼% 2007	113⅝	-⅛	6.37	5.35
128⅞	121⅛	Treas 9% 2008	128⅛	-⅛	7.03	5.36
122⅞	113⅞	Treas 8% 2009	121⅛	-⅛	6.57	5.35
108⅝	99⅞	Treas 6¼% 2010	108⅛	-⅛	5.78	5.33
133½	124⅞	Conv 9% 2011	133⅝	-⅛	6.76	5.38
135⅞	125⅞	Treas 9% 2012	135⅛	-⅛	6.66	5.38
103⅝	93⅝	Treas 5½% 2008-12	102⅝	-⅛	5.35	5.14
122⅝	112½	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	122½	-⅛	6.35	5.40
LONGS (over 15 years)						
126⅞	116½	Treas 8% 2013	126⅞	-⅛	6.32	5.39
130⅞	118⅞	Treas 8% 2015	130⅞	-⅛	6.14	5.29
141⅝	127⅝	Treas 8¾% 2017	140⅞	-⅛	6.21	5.30
136⅝	121⅞	Tr 8% 2021	136⅝	-⅛	5.86	5.23
UNDATED						
65⅝	55½	War Ln 3½%	65⅝		5.31	
45⅝	38½	Treas 2½%	45⅝	+⅛	5.46	
72½	61⅞	Consols 4%	71⅝	+⅛	5.63	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					5%	3%
200⅝	194⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2001	200⅝	-⅛	2.84	3.20
200⅜	190⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2003	200⅛	-⅛	2.67	2.91
129½	124⅞	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	129⅛	-⅛	2.53	2.72
220⅞	206⅞	Treas IL 2% 2006	220⅞	-⅛	2.47	2.61
202½	187½	Treas IL 2½% 2009	202⅝	-⅛	2.43	2.54
214⅝	195⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2011	214⅝	-⅛	2.43	2.53
180⅝	162⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2013	179⅝	-⅛	2.41	2.49
197⅝	175½	Treas IL 2½% 2016	196⅝	-⅛	2.40	2.48
194⅝	170⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2020	194⅛	-⅛	2.41	2.47
168½	142½	Treas IL 2½% 2024	168⅛	-⅛	2.32	2.43
164⅝	140⅝	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	163⅝	-⅛	2.35	2.40

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
303½	175½	Alexon	197½	+7½		7.7
266	121½	Alldays	121½		8.6	6.0
190	41	Allied Carpets	43		22.5	
503	311½	Arcadia Group	316½	+4	4.2	11.3
41½	19½	Ashley (Laura)	21			
218½	115½	Austin Reed	123½	+6	7.6	7.2
172½	137½	Beales	137½		4.5	8.9
193½	142½	Beattie (J)	143½	+1	8.5	9.4
155½	69½	Bernalls	79½	+5	6.1	4.8
453½	174½	Blacks Leisr	185½	+9	3.7	6.6
145	103½	Body Shop	108	+½	6.5	9.1
1095	602	Boots	1000	-35	2.8	23.7
84½	30½	Brown & Jackson	60			11.1
460	275	Brown (N)	275	-6	3.4	14.3
505	229½	Carpetright	232½		11.7	9.1
400	227	Charles Int	385		1.7	30.7
432½	270	Church	289	+9	7.6	7.7
147½	95½	Clinton Cards	118½	+6	3.2	12.4
272½	151½	Country Gdns	180		1.4	15.3
432½	252½	Courts Furnish	253½	-5	2.1	9.3
597½	192½	DFS Furniture	206		6.0	8.3
433	301½	Debenhams	342½	+3	7.4	14.8
686	459	Dixons Grp	559	+5	2.8	15.5
59½	45½	Etec Boutique	65½	-1½		28.5
6½	3	EBA Gp	5			
79½	14	Essex Furn	16½	-3	29.2	3.8
319	122½	Faddand Est	123½	-2½		13.5
218½	149½	Fine Art Dev	149½		8.3	11.6
366½	203½	Freemans	341		1.3	21.1
592½	129	Flying Flw Uts	153½	-15	6.1	8.6
137½	87	Fonmeasan	88		4.8	7.4
465	320	French Conn	320		1.3	11.3
45½	34½	Gieves	35½		4.0	22.1
333½	267½	Goldsmiths Gp	210		4.8	10.3
147	90½	Grampian Hdg	97½	+1	9.2	9.4
918	670	GUS	741½	+11½	3.4	17.0
297½	139½	Hamleys	141		9.8	6.4
176½	52½	Hampden Grp	57½		6.4	7.9
347½	142½	Harveys Furnt	142½	-1½	7.9	8.4
221½	96½	Hse of Fraser	101	+4½	6.8	11.2
171½	117½	Hughes (TJ)	135		3.2	13.6
826½	370	JJB Sports	372½	-7½	2.3	14.5
600½	254½	Kingfisher	505	-1	2.8	18.3
355	170	Liberty	206		0.5	
54½	25½	Lowelight	35			
141	39	MFI	41½	+½	16.0	5.6
654	405	Marks Spencer	509	-4	3.4	18.1
57	39½	Merchant Retail	34½	+½	1.8	14.4
291½	161	Moss Bros	161½		4.5	10.3
169	111½	New Look	116	-6	5.3	9.4
658	410	Next	443	-2	5.4	11.7
31	20½	Olivers (G)	20½			
512½	154	Onlame Intl	154	-½	11.0	6.1
85	24½	Pardons	24½		7.7	
95½	74½	Partridge Fine	74½		6.7	5.9
29½	18	QS Grp	19½			
320	153	Rosebys	157½		9.6	6.3
140½	75½	Sava Group	86½		10.9	8.9
390½	178	Sears	178	-½	13.0	10.3
252½	202½	Selfridges	224½		2.5	
52½	28	Signet Group	32½	+1½		7.1
567½	389½	Smith WH	482	-½	4.3	15.3
1420	1050	Sotheby's	1112½		2.1	
234	215	Stonehouse	218	+½	5.2	10.2
179½	125	Style Hldgs	136½		0.8	
92	35	Stylo	38	+½	15.3	
250	140½	Thorn	246	+1	1.9	15.4
127½	29½	The Rack	31½		7.9	4.9
3½	2	Upton & South	2½			21.8
355½	209½	Wickes	242	+9½	2.1	12.8
379½	236½	Wyevale	259½		3.6	15.6

SUPPORT SERVICES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1030	635	AEA Tech	756	-2	1.6	33.4
350	202½	Abacus Recruit	220	+7½	0.9	
205½	85½	Acorn	86½			
236½	152½	Aggreko	155	-3	2.0	20.0
122	49	Alpha Airpls	48	-1	13.6	5.0
53½	32½	Alphameric	43½	+½		
73	43	Amite Grp	44½	-½	0.7	41.2
669½	362½	Atkins WS	624½		1.6	38.8
214½	121½	BNB Res	121½		7.8	7.3
790	465	BPP	512½	+25	4.1	16.8
438	294	BTG	330		0.2	
135½	109½	Baldwin Ind	117½		3.6	6.6
169½	92½	Brandon Hire	92½		4.6	18.9
48½	17½	Br Thornton	26			
132½	79½	Brooks Service	87½		5.7	9.4
957½	568½	Business Post	710	+55	2.6	28.0
2297½	759½	CMG	1860	+32½	0.3	76.5
972½	302½	Card Gp	630	+2½	2.2	14.0
59½	40	Calderburn	45½		4.2	6.6
626	311½	Capita Group	498½	-4½	0.6	67.1
12½	6½	Charnes	7½		3.3	12.3
822½	495	Compuacenter	521½	+9	0.8	32.3
382	159	Corp Services	159½		5.0	10.8
37½	21½	Coutts Constgt	29	-½	1.5	
649	317½	DCS Gp	485½	-22	0.6	27.3
352½	95	Danka Bs Sys	101½	-1	3.8	18.3
459½	302	Davis Service	311	+3	4.6	17.0
330	280	Delph	280½	-23½	3.3	16.6
1350	682½	Diagonal	822½		0.5	44.9
27½	17½	Ecocopy	19½		12.5	4.0
102½	51	El Data Plc	75		3.7	13.1
1975	927½	FI Group	1550	+25	0.6	66.2
579	388	Gardian IT	388	-5	0.2	55.1
147	96½	Hay Group	98½	-1	2.8	6.7
455	300	Harvey Nash	306		1.9	23.0
1155	751	Hays	784	-4	1.6	26.5
58	37½	High-Point Rendl	38½			
325½	218½	Hogg Robinson	232½		5.9	15.5
275½	195½	Huntsg	195½		5.1	10.5
1257½	412½	JBA Hldgs	412½		1.6	
330	232½	Johnson Srvcs	259		6.2	9.0
69½	38½	Kalamazoo	46½	-1		
1190	570	Kewill Syst	952½		1.4	26.7
24½	13½	Laser-Scan	18			
551	317½	Lavendon	376½		1.4	22.8
2312½	1147½	Logica	1580	-35	0.8	45.4
306½	267½	Lorien	335		2.8	16.2
360½	120½	Lynx Group	168½	+1	1.5	21.5
96½	42½	MDIS	65			
1322½	772½	MMT Comp	817½	+7½	1.9	21.5
164½	109½	MR Group	131½	+3	3.8	17.4
555	320	Macro 4	427½		7.9	
342½	142½	Marlborough Int	222½			40.3
94½	52½	Menmore Abbey	78½		1.7	16.3
721	315	Micro Focus	317½			17.9
137½	65	Microgen	90½	-1	6.9	
3725	1825	Misys	2500	+10	0.7	37.7
336	213½	MITIE Gp	225		1.4	22.5
446	181½	Nord Anglia	285	-9	2.0	24.6
53½	31½	Novo Group	53½		3.7	12.1
65	41	Onyst	45	+½	4.4	10.3
780	355	PSD	260		4.0	10.0
862½	635	Pasty	677½		1.1	28.3
395	240	Pegasus	295		3.2	12.8
380	145	Pinna	203½	+2½	1.5	8.2
404	151	Photo-Me	371		2.2	
54½	30½	Proudfoot	32	+½	2.0	7.7
247½	160	RCO	193½		9.7	35.2
345	218½	RPS Group	318½	-4	2.1	22.5
62½	25½	Radius	61½		2.2	20.9
600	317½	Real Time	360	-2½	2.7	11.5
151½	79	Rebus	100½		2.6	18.0
133	105	Reed Executive	106½		3.5	5.7
207½	156	Reliance Sec	155		6.3	10.3
473	265	Rentokil Ini	356	+11½	1.1	32.3
237½	152½	Ricardo Group	179½		4.5	22.6
576	269½	Robert Walters	280	-4	1.9	11.7
510	236	Rolfe & Nolan	240		0.9	
397½	280	Royalblue	302½		1.0	35.7
1805	825	Sage Gp	1225	+37½	0.3	48.3
825	74	Sanderson	123		5.3	11.2
1069	551	Select App	690	-3½	0.4	24.6
849	368½	Serna Gp	583	+3	0.4	58.6
1447½	868	Serco Gp	1172½	-40	0.7	43.9
200½	154½	Shanks & McEwan	189½		2.8	21.1
1067½	520	Shared Intl	780		0.9	26.7
74	38	Simon Grp	40	+½	2.0	10.6
61	25	Sketchley	28½			
320½	181½	Skillsgroup	263½		2.1	24.1
291	258	Spring Grp	260		2.1	
130	85	Stat-Plus	99½	+½	14.2	9.9
275	92	Superscape VR	117			
151½	65	Torex	100		2.9	16.7
4060	2250	Tyco Intl	3250		0.2	
148½	86½	WSP Group	113½		3.1	15.8
225	153	Wares Howrd	154		9.7	6.9
332½	176	Waste Mgt Intl	330			72.7
513½	332½	Waste Recycl	393½	-½	0.9	30.0
278½	199	Whitehead Mann	202½		4.6	13.8
100½	62½	Whoc Young Gm	83		5.3	12.8
480	304	Williams	320	-5	4.9	16.5
480	215	Zergo	282½	-22½		

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
908	411½	BT	774	-14	3.1	24.0
838½	153½	COLT Telecom	527½	+12½		
863	467½	Cable Wireless	583	-4	2.1	26.6
716½	364½	Cable&Wire Coms	465½	-17½		
1132½	252½	Energis	705	+7½		
397½	130	Euro Telecom	142½	-8½	2.6	12.3
321	77½	General Cable	231½	-2		
137½	17½	Ionica Group	19½			
830	239½	Orange	573½	+23½		
573	366½	Securicor	447	-11	0.5	43.7
209½	69½	Telewest	132	+1		
960	298	Vodafone	736	+14	0.9	56.3

TRANSPORT

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
440	210	Air London	296	+13½	3.0	16.7
367	179	All Nippon Air	195½	-2		
518	330½	Arriva	368½	+15	4.6	10.4
388	256½	Assoc Br Ports	276	-7½	4.1	13.5
372	350	Autologic	382½		3.4	12.7
293½	166½	Ave Europe	218	-1	1.7	21.7
731½	402½	BAA	603½	-1½	2.8	16.6
721	415	Br Airways	435	-5	4.8	11.3
140½	79½	Clarkson (H)	79½		6.3	9.0
192½	135½	Clydeport Ops	179½	+4	4.1	9.7
332½	158½	Dart	186½	+8	2.4	16.9
82½	43½	Eurotunnel Uts	58			
501½	221½	FirstGroup	438	+3	1.9	25.2
140	80	Fisher (James)	80	-1½	5.0	6.1
692	490	Forth Ports	495	+3	3.7	12.1
92½	60	Frontline	70			
815	510	Go-Ahead	674	+4	1.6	16.1
601½	387½	Goode Durrant	400	+1½	3.7	11.5
498	305½	Hepnire Gp	405	+7½	0.4	36.7
1135	720	Irish Cont	720		0.8	15.4
96½	67	Jacobs	67	-1	4.3	15.5
642½	444½	Mersey Docks	449	-1	4.2	15.9
203	119	NFC	125		5.3	13.0
1120	676	Natl Express	851	+19½	2.0	19.2
817½	562½	Ocean Group	641½	+4	2.7	18.4
121½	89½	Ocean Wilson	89½		6.1	5.8
1012	650	P & O Dfd	682½	+2½	5.6	15.4
130½	107½	P & O 5.5%	120½	+1	5.7	
515	344	Provn Rail	367½	-10	6.5	7.5
1586	571½	Railtrack	1428	-2	2.1	33.1
130	86½	Salvesen (C)	87	-1½	10.5	9.3
49	36	Seacon	38½		4.1	28.2
296½	190	Seascope Ship	197	+3½	7.9	4.8
311½	145	Servisair	147½	-1	4.5	11.9
1477½	765	Stagecoach	1095	+5	1.4	22.3
628	437½	Tibbett & Britn	437½	-2½	5.0	11.4
330½	232½	TDG	241½		5.3	16.3
116½	76½	Uplands	78½		8.4	4.9
72½	30½	Utd Carriers	30½		14.3	8.0

WATER

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
987½	780	Anglian	875	+14	5.6	9.9
335	285	East Surrey	292		5.1	
1053½	937	Hyder	965½	-½	5.5	9.9
128½	115½	Hyder Cm Pf	124½	-½	7.9	
775	660	Mid Kent Hdgs	675	-5	6.1	8.7
1145	864½	Pennon	1014	-2	5.1	12.7
1068	666	Severn Trent	1025	+21	4.2	11.4
3750	3365	Sthn Stffs	3747½	+5	3.3	14.3
1176	811	Thames	1085	+2	4.5	12.0
974	658	Utd Utilities	870	+5	5.1	10.6
617½	452	Wessex	580	+½	4.4	11.6
580	436½	Yorkshire	473½		5.4	9.7

RETAILERS, FOOD

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
227½	157	ASDA Group	186	-1½	2.4	17.9
81	56	Budgens	76½	-½	2.6	14.0
80½	54½	Dairy Farm Intl	57½	+2	6.3	10.7
213½	157	Farepak	176		4.3	11.5
43½	35½	Fitwilton	41½		5.9	
184	95	Fyffes	113½		2.3	13.3
2767½	1995	Greggs	2597½	+10	1.9	20.7
261	119	Iceland Group	191½	-2	3.5	12.9
301½	227½	Morrison (W)	278	+8	0.9	22.3
69	38	Park Foods	51½		7.2	18.0
407½	295	Safeway	323½	-9½	5.4	13.6
586½	370	Sainsbury J	528	+4	3.3	20.0
484	207½	Somerfield	420½	+17	2.7	13.4
338	194½	T & S Stores	297½	-1	3.6	15.9
308	152	Tesco	187½	-6	2.9	19.5
293½	157½	Thorntons	167½		4.6	13.3
626	485	Watson & Philip	487½	-2½	4.9	13.1

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
235	148	Cafe Inns	148	-2	2.8	9.6
29	19½	Chosen	17½	+2½		
65½	19½	Megalomedia	22½	-1½	1.4	...
38	18½	Memory Corp	21			
847½	445	Ramco Egy	487½			
847	705	Southern News	705	-2½	3.7	13.8
94½	75½	Southern Vectis	75½		3.8	10.8

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. ■ No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.



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Far East crisis hits Fortnum & Mason

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RAVE ON 26
Ministry of Sound making a big noise

BUSINESS

WEEKEND MONEY
SECTION 2

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5 1998

Tessas and Peps may win reprieve as problems hit Isas

Savings scheme doubts grow



Hewitt: examining proposals

BY RICHARD MILES AND CAROLINE MERRELL

PRESSURE is mounting on the Government to delay the April launch of its Individual Savings Account (Isa) because the financial services industry has not been given enough time or information to prepare.

The Treasury has still not finalised the terms of the Isa, the tax-free savings scheme unveiled in December by Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, even though the planned launch is less than seven months away.

Financial services companies have complained that the existing timetable is so tight that they will be unable to offer Isas on the official introduction date, threatening to undermine the Government's drive to encourage more of the public to save.

If the launch were delayed — and the Treasury was adamant last night that it had no plans to defer the introduction — then Isa's tax-free predecessors, personal equity plans (Peps) and tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas), might be given up to a year's reprieve.

Whitehall and industry sources said yesterday that publication of the final Isa rules had been set back by July's Cabinet reshuffle which saw Helen Liddell, former Economic Secretary to the Treasury with responsibility for the implementation of the scheme, moved to the Scottish Office.

Ms Liddell's replacement, Patricia Hewitt, will shortly have to examine the Isa proposals in detail before they are finalised, and resolve disagreements over the Cat-standard benchmark. This could take several months.

Roger Cornick, director of Perpetual, the fund manager, said: "A combination of a Cabinet reshuffle and disagreements over the Cat-standard all point to delays."

His views were echoed by Alan Burton, chief executive of Standard Life Unit Trust Management, who said: "It will be increasingly difficult to offer the Isa within the timetable."

In addition, banks, insurers and fund managers claim they face a series of practical obstacles, not least the development of computer systems to support the sale and administration of Isas. They say they will need a minimum of six months from the publication of the final rules to build adequate systems to cope with the scheme's complexity.

Investment managers also face a legislative hurdle. A change in the law is required to enable them to offer a cash-element within the Isa. This is likely to be one of the most attractive features, given that the Isa is targeted at the low-paid.

One senior banker, who applauded the Isa's concept but deplored the complexity of the proposals, said the Government would seek to lay the blame at the foot of the industry if the launch were postponed. A respite would be welcome to most financial institutions, which are deeply embroiled in preparations for the millennium and the euro.

However, Rowan Gormley, chief executive of Virgin Direct, Richard Branson's financial services business, was keen to defend the Isa. He said: "The reason for delay has been the change of minister. The industry has been keen to rubbish the Isa since launch because it means that costs will have to be cut."

The Isa has been mired in controversy virtually from the day of its announcement when Mr Robinson disclosed that the scheme would have a lifetime limit of £50,000, even though many existing Peps hold far more.

Last month, Tesco and Sainsbury's said they were reluctant to offer Isas under the proposed Government terms.

Commentary, page 25

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5167.0	(-48.3)
Yield	3.23%	
FTSE All Share	2396.94	(+18.78)
Nikkei	14042.91	(-218.33)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7852.39	(-19.83)*
S&P Composite	976.98	(-5.28)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5½%*	(5½%)
Long bond	102²⁸/₃₂*	(102¹⁰/₃₂)
Yield	5.30%*	(5.30%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	7½%	(7¹⁵/₁₆%)
Life long gilt future (Dec)	112.26	(112.29)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6720*	(1.6763)
London:		
$	1.6732	(1.6813)
DM	2.9023	(2.8992)
FFr	9.7313	(9.7200)
SFr	2.3814	(2.3818)
Yen	224.77	(226.16)
£ Index	104.3	(104.4)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7350*	(1.7270)
FFr	5.8200*	(5.7945)
SFr	1.4260*	(1.4177)
Yen	133.98*	(134.10)
$ Index	110.8	(110.8)

Tokyo close Yen 135.41

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day(Nov)	$13.60	($13.65)

GOLD

London close	$285.55	($283.95)

* denotes midday trading prices

Executive pay curbs in pipeline says TUC

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Trades Union Congress believes the Government is ready to act to curb executive pay and is to accelerate its own campaign to trigger action.

John Monks, General Secretary, said yesterday he believed the Government would respond to public disquiet over the level of executive salaries. This has been fuelled by successive surveys showing that directors' pay is racing ahead of inflation and ballooning in comparison with average incomes.

At the TUC's annual conference, which starts on September 14, Mr Monks is planning to launch a fierce attack on the accelerating pay of directors backed by new research from the union movement.

Mr Monks said: "The Government shares our concerns. At the moment it has not got past exhortation, but I believe something will be done."

The Government is believed to be looking at ways of tightening regulations on directors' pay as part of its review of company law. Last month Stephen Byers, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, signalled a crackdown on executive pay when he hit out at pay levels in the utilities. His comments came in the wake of similar criticism by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and indicated that the Treasury was pushing for a tough line on directors' pay.

Mr Monks said: "The fat cats are getting fatter and the division between the high-paid and low-paid is getting much greater. When directors award themselves such high pay levels they are not earning their right to leadership."

The new research from the TUC is expected to show that the directors' pay has accelerated sharply. Its last figures showed the highest paid directors earned 16 times the salary of their average-paid workers.

The Government has said it will link directors' pay in regulated utilities to service standards if they do not curb their remuneration. But it is believed it will take a broader sweep against executive pay in company legislation due in 2000.

Ruth Lea, head of policy at the Institute of Directors, conceded that there were abuses of pay awards, particularly through incentive schemes and the sometimes "incestuous" operation of remuneration committees. But she said: "If the Government interferes with directors' pay where does it stop, it would be interfering in the market which generally works well."

John Redwood, Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, said: "If a company is operating in a competitive environment then it should be free to set pay as it sees fit."

Commentary, page 25

Far East crisis hits Fortnum & Mason

BY CHRIS AYRES

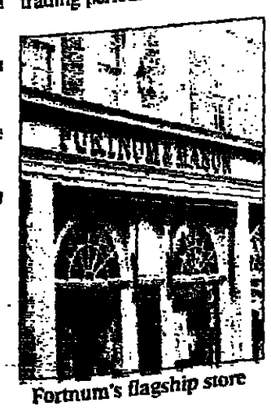
FORTNUM & MASON, the Queen's favourite grocer, yesterday said profits had almost halved because of a dearth of affluent tourists from Japan and Hong Kong visiting its landmark London store.

The company, chaired by 70-year-old Garry Weston, the billionaire head of Associated British Foods, said profits for the year to July 11 had fallen from £3.2 million to £1.8 million because of the Asian crisis and the strength of sterling.

A £14 million facelift and expansion of Fortnum's Piccadilly store — its biggest building project since the 1920s — had also disrupted trading. Mr Weston said. The expansion was partly funded through a £5 million rights issue in 1996.

Sales for the year remained flat at £33.2 million, while earnings per share almost halved from 22.7p to just 12.3p. Shares in the company remained unchanged yesterday at 525p, compared with £10 last year. Fortnum will pay a second interim dividend of 4p on January 4, giving an unchanged total payment of 8.3p.

Mr Weston said: "A likely decline in contribution from exports ... and a loss in interest income ... will make the results for the current financial year even more dependent on a successful Christmas trading period."



Fortnum's flagship store



CARL RUTHERFORD

Microchip misery: workers at Fujitsu's condemned Newton Aycliffe plant may not be the last victims of the global decline in semiconductor markets

Fujitsu closure brings wider fears

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

FUJITSU, the Japanese electronics company, blamed global semiconductor markets for the closure of its Teesside microchip factory as fears spread that other microchip producers will soon quit the UK.

Most at risk from the collapse in the semiconductor market are the already uncertain plans for a massive factory in South Wales by LG and Hyundai's delayed plant in Dunfermline, in Gordon Brown's constituency. Those two projects had promised to create 4,000 jobs.

Fujitsu claimed that the closure of its Newton Aycliffe factory — in Tony Blair's constituency — had nothing to do with concern over the strong pound or interest rates.

John Evans, external relations officer at the plant, said Newton Aycliffe had been condemned because prices for semiconductors had "gone into freefall" and the factory used outdated technology. The plant, Fujitsu's only semiconductor centre in Europe and the employer of 600 staff, is one of five microchip factories to be closed by the company in recent months. Others have gone in the US and Japan.

Semiconductors were once considered a licence to print money but prices have fallen sharply. One industry executive recently said microchips were now so cheap it was like selling them to customers wrapped in dollar bills. Fujitsu said that in 1995 it commanded $45 for a D-RAM memory microchip. Now the price is $1.50 (93p). Some industry experts believe the price is as low as 70p.

The collapse in the microchip market has been fuelled by over-capacity and the economic crisis in Asia.

Fujitsu had considered replacing the equipment it has used in Newton Aycliffe since 1991 with new machinery that would produce a different type of microchip. But it decided that the factory could not survive for the two or three years it would take to get a new production method fully running.

The microchip market is likely to remain in the doldrums for at least two years.

Fujitsu has already drawn down £17 million out of a £30 million grant from the Department of Trade and Industry. It will be forced to repay some but not the full amount because of its ten-year commitment to the area. The company had further assistance when it decided to locate in the North East, including the provision of services to its site. Fujitsu has invested more than £350 million in the factory.

Market report, page 27

Positive note after shares' turbulence

BY JANET BUSH

LONDON shares yesterday ended a difficult and volatile week on a mildly positive note, but with little conviction and even less volume. The FTSE 100 closed up 48.3, at 5,167, some 80 points lower than a week ago. Only 740 million shares changed hands.

European markets rallied at first as traders took more neutral positions after Thursday's falls ahead of a long holiday weekend in the US. However, the rallies ran out of steam as the Dow Jones industrial average shed early gains.

There was unwillingness to go into the weekend with big market positions, given uncertainty over a meeting that began late yesterday involving Kiichi Miyazawa, Japan's Finance Minister and Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary.

Russian shares hit a new low at one point, and the rouble slid again, despite talk of the possibility of a currency board type system. The mood is nervous ahead of Monday's vote in the Duma on whether to confirm Viktor Chernomyrdin as Prime Minister.

Market report, page 27

TLG recommends £321m cash bid from US suitor

BY PAUL DURMAN

TLG, the lighting company that was once part of Thorn EMI, yesterday recommended a £321 million takeover bid from Cooper Industries of the US, but some investors are still hoping for a higher offer.

One possible rival bidder is Wassall, the conglomerate turned investment group that has accumulated a stake of more than 14 per cent in TLG since the start of last year.

However, TLG said Wassall had not been in touch since it announced it was in takeover talks at the end of July, when its shares stood at 110p.

Cooper sought to strengthen its position by spending £25 million through its advisers, Warburg Dillon Read, on an 8.3 per cent stake. TLG's share price closed at 166½p, up 17p.

Cooper paid £164.5 million for Menvier-Swain, the emergency lighting group, at the end of last year, but said the rest of its European business had few overlaps with TLG.

Cooper's cash offer of 160p a share represents nearly 19 times TLG's earnings before exceptional items for its last full financial year. TLG was bought out of Thorn EMI for £162 million in August 1993 and floated on the stock market at £205 million in November 1994.

Tempus, page 27

Fidelity forced to suspend trading in Asean fund

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

FIDELITY Investments, one of the UK's biggest unit trust companies, yesterday suspended dealing in its Asean fund because of its high exposure to Malaysian investment.

The company was forced to suspend dealing in the trust because of the imposition of currency controls in Malaysia. About 20 per cent of the £32 million fund is invested in the country. A spokeswoman said: "We had to suspend dealings to protect investors. The suspension is indefinite."

Investors will not be able to get their money out of the fund, nor will it be possible to make any new investments. The currency controls make it nearly impossible to exchange assets in the fund, denominated in ringgits, into sterling.

The spokeswoman did not rule out further suspensions. Fidelity has investments worth £500 million in the Far East. The company was unable to say how many of its clients were affected. It is not obliged to tell investors about the suspension.

Several offshore funds have already suspended dealing because of the Malaysian currency crisis. Among those affected are funds from HSBC and from Fidelity International.

It is still unclear how long the currency controls are likely to last.

A WEEK IN THE CITY

Few City traders recovering from last week's nail-biting events during the Bank Holiday break will have returned to work on Tuesday sufficiently recharged for what lay ahead.

While party-goers danced to Caribbean beats on Monday at the Notting Hill Carnival, Wall Street suffered its third consecutive 100-point decline, taking the Dow Jones industrial average below its level at the start of the year. Although world stock markets briefly held their nerve on Wednesday, suggestion of a bear market was intensified by continuing political crises in Russia combined with a sharp slide in the rouble, gloomy announcements from two leading Japanese companies and the de facto devaluation of the Colombian peso. The FTSE ended the week on a slightly firmer note, but still highly nervous.

Japanese shock-waves broke across the shores of northeast England yesterday when Fujitsu announced the closure of its Tyneside microchip factory with the loss of 600 jobs only weeks after 1,100 workers were laid off when Siemens closed its Tyneside semiconductor site.

The sinking ship of the semiconductor industry was rocked on Thursday when the Korean companies Hyundai and LG said they would merge their semiconductor businesses into a single corporation.

On Tuesday Barclays announced it had become the first big British casualty of the Russian crisis. Shares in the company were sent tumbling when it disclosed it had put aside £250 million to cover losses in the Russian securities market, about £150 million more than analysts had forecast.

Scottish Hydro and Southern Electric surprised the power industry on Tuesday by announcing a £4.9 billion partnership. The new powerhouse, which will be called Scottish and Southern Energy, now has £1.5 billion at its disposal and is thought to be a prime contender for the power stations of National Power and PowerGen when the Government forces the generators to sell some of their plant.

Shell and Texaco agreed to pool their marketing and refining interests in Europe to achieve savings of about £120 million a year. However, the new partnership, which in the UK would include about 2,200 petrol stations with a 22 per cent market share, pushing Esso into second place, is thought to have attracted concern from the Office of Fair Trading and the European Commission. The new deal is also likely to lead to thousands of job losses.

The Thistle story took a new turn this week with the announcement that Robert Peel, who was ousted as chief executive of Thistle Hotels last year, is to return to running 30 Thistle hotels under a management agreement with Lehman, the US group that is buying the 30 hotels from Thistle for £66 million.

While Mr Peel was back at the helm, Peter Foreman, chief executive of Royal & SunAlliance, found himself out in the cold. Mr Foreman, 56, is retiring after only 10 months in the job.

MATTHEW BARBOUR

A fruitful exercise in a bear market

BY GEORGE SIVELL

THE great bear market of 1998, like all great bear markets before it, is giving the stock market trees a good shake.

At this stage of the downturn it is useful to see what is lying on the ground and what is still alive and attached to the tree. City analysts who wish to be in employment at the time of the next cyclical downturn in the world economy should make careful notes on what distinguishes ripe fruit from that which is spoilt.

To assist in this we have compiled, with the help of Datastream, the City research specialists, a table of the performance of the FTSE index for each stock market sector since the start of the year.

In simple terms, therefore, the entire telecommunications sector, led by British Telecom and Cable & Wireless, is still up 58 per cent on the year, after having been up 87 per cent on the last day of July.

Both the pharmaceutical and financial sectors drove the 1997 stock market boom. While pharmaceuticals have showed some defensive qualities, banks and financials have suffered in the downturn.

Regular market followers, however, may still be surprised to see the information technology sector up 40 per cent so far on the year.

The gas distribution sector set up by the FTSE, while showing a healthy 20 per cent rise, is a little artificial being made up largely of Centrica and BG, once known singularly as British Gas. But the defensive qualities of the giant privatised utility contrast sharply with upstream oil and gas companies.

They have plunged a massive 49 per cent so far this year as the oil price and the prospects of selling any discovered oil have both diminished. Lasmo and Enterprise stand out as the household names in this sector. There may be something in the old adage about diversifying to survive. The larger integrated oil companies such as Shell and BP may have had their woes and merged operations with rivals to face the future, but their stock is only down a collective 17 per cent.

Old sages will nod wisely at the defensive, but positive, performance of the food manufacturers and food retailers and will be unsurprised by the water and electricity utilities keeping their heads well above water. Still some defensive qualities too, if not controversial ones, in tobacco.

Some traditions still hold, however. Paper, chemicals, engineering, building materials, banks and property are all notoriously cyclical. They remain so despite the endeavours of their directors in trying to remove the cyclicality from their business.

FTSE SECTOR PERFORMANCES

Telecoms	+58	Food producers	+3	Banks	-15
Information technology	+40	Electronic and elect equipment	0	Household goods/textiles	-16
Gas distribution	+20	Alcoholic beverages	0	Leisure/hotels	-17
Support services	+19	Insurance	-2	Oil integrated	-17
Life insurance	+13	Other financial	-2	Distributors	-21
Pharmaceuticals	+12	Healthcare	-4	Diversified industrial	-21
Transport	+10	Engineering vehicles	-6	Building materials	-22
Electricity	+9	Retailers, general	-7	Engineering	-23
Services	+9	Media	-8	Chemicals	-24
Tobacco	+9	Breweries	-10	Paper/packaging	-27
Retailers food	+7	Construction	-10	Oil exploration/production	-49
Water	+7	Property	-14		

New car sales fall despite claims of massaged figures

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

NEW car sales dipped last month despite industry claims that some manufacturers had massaged their figures to show increased sales.

The number of new car registrations in August fell 3.8 per cent from last year's record. That figure, however, was boosted by building society windfall payments.

While the motor industry voiced delight that the 505,312 sales in August 1998 came surprisingly close to the 1997 levels, the figures were dismissed as "misleading" by Mitsubishi.

The company accused two big rivals of registering huge numbers of vehicles at the end of the month to suggest a buoyant market. "That has given a false picture about the strength of the industry, which has slumped considerably during the year," Mitsubishi said.

Although Mitsubishi did not name the two manufacturers, it was revealed that Ford and Renault registered 70 per cent of the UK's daily total on the last day of the month.

Mitsubishi, which has less than 1 per cent of the UK new-car market, says that a 24 per cent fall in its August sales is in line with the general state of the industry if measured as sales rather than registrations. "This is not sour grapes because we still had our third best August, but there is no point trying to falsify the position. That simply gives a misleading impression of consumer confidence," Mitsubishi said.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, which releases the monthly registration figures, insisted that the statistics represented a valid year-on-year comparison for the busiest trading month.

"We are delighted with this year's August figure," said the SMMT, which added that some 20,000 of last year's August registrations were attributable to windfall payments.

However, the society acknowledged that this year's total figure is unlikely to reach the record level for the whole of 1989, when 2.3 million registrations were recorded. Manufacturers remain hopeful that they can pass last year's figure of 2.17 million.

Ford was once again the leading company in August 1998, taking 18.24 per cent of the market. Its main rivals both lost ground, with Vauxhall's market share dipping from 13.37 per cent to 11.15 per cent and Rover's falling from 9.67 per cent to 8.40 per cent. Last month marked the last annual change in registration plates. From next March, number plates will change every six months.

The August figure took the total of new car registrations for this year to 1,680,100 — a 3.9 per cent increase on the January-August 1997 total.

TOP MODELS

1	Ford Escort
2	Ford Fiesta
3	Ford Mondeo
4	Renault Megane
5	Vauxhall Corsa
6	Peugeot 306
7	Vauxhall Vectra
8	Vauxhall Astra
9	Rover 200
10	Fiat Punto



Ron Spinney says demand for UK properties is encouraging

Property group buys in France

BY RICHARD MILES

HAMMERSON, the property group, has lifted its French assets to nearly £400 million by buying two shopping centres and a property management company for £60 million.

Yesterday's deals come after first-half investment of £195 million, including buying the Italie shopping centre in Paris and a half share of a Southampton retail development.

Ron Spinney, chief executive, said that conditions in the property markets of continental Europe and Canada remained favourable, while demand for the group's properties in the UK was encouraging despite recent signs of a slowdown in the economy.

Pre-tax profits for the half to June 30 rose by 18 per cent, to £36 million. There was an underlying rise in net rental income of 3.4 per cent, but after the effects of acquisitions and disposals, rental income fell 3.5 per cent to £60 million.

Earnings per share leapt by 44.3 per cent, to 11.4p. The interim dividend rises from 3.8p to 4.13p. The payout will be deferred to April 7, when advance corporation tax will have been abolished. The company said that 0.14p of it is compensation for its deferral.

Tempus, page 27



Managers take UPF private in £42.8m deal

BY MARTIN BARROW

UPF GROUP, the manufacturer of vehicle chassis, is quitting the stock market.

The company is being taken private by the existing management in a £42.8 million deal that is backed by Phildrew Ventures.

The buyout, which was announced yesterday, values UPF shares at 112½p each, which compares with a flotation price of 108p in 1994. The shares peaked at 171p in 1996 and were trading at 80p on May 19, the day before the management approach was made public.

Keith Evans, the chairman and chief executive of UPF, said that the company required significant investment to fulfil its potential.

The investment was needed for acquisitions and to win and undertake new contracts. The company's proposed strategy "will result in increased investment and potential volatility of results".

After delisting, the company would have access to significant financial resources through its venture capital backers.

UPF is negotiating the purchase of a privately owned German manufacturer of heat-shields and other automotive components.

Last year the business incurred losses of DM8.9 million (about £3 million) on turnover of DM131.6 million. Net borrowings were DM44.8 million at the year end. The acquisition is conditional on the delisting of UPF.

UPF's most recent interim results revealed a fall in pre-tax profits to £3.6 million from £3.8 million.

The company now expects full-year profits to decline to about £5.2 million from £7.1 million.

The buyout by the management has already received irrevocable acceptances in respect of 31.48 per cent of the company's shares. Investors holding a further 29.89 per cent say that they will accept the bid in the absence of a higher offer.

The shares rose 20p to 110p yesterday.

Tempus, page 27

Justice Department accuses BAT lawyers

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

THE Justice Department has accused lawyers working for Brown & Williamson, the BAT subsidiary, of potentially having participated in a criminal conspiracy to hide evidence.

The department is seeking to lift the lawyers' "attorney-client privilege" that shields them from having to reveal incriminating material.

The case concerns allegations that Brown & Williamson and other tobacco companies misled US regulators over the nicotine content of cigarettes and their addictiveness.

A grand jury in Washington is set to hear the Justice Department's addition to its continuing battle to prove that the tobacco companies hatched a criminal conspiracy. So far, no end to the investigation is in sight. A BAT spokesman said: "Right now, we can't comment because of the grand jury."

Independently from the Justice Department investigation, attorneys-general for eight states are trying to stitch together a new agreement to settle the states' compensation claims for healthcare costs.

Two previous settlements, one for $368 billion (£220 billion) over 25 years and the other for $516 billion, were rejected.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.92	2.74
Austria Sch	21.42	19.76
Belgium Fr	63.04	58.08
Canada $	2.678	2.490
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8985	0.8270
Denmark Kr	11.84	10.75
Egypt	5.91	5.30
Finland Mkk	9.38	8.63
France Fr	10.20	9.42
Germany Dm	3.065	2.823
Greece Dr	526	487
Hong Kong $	13.75	12.55
Iceland	120	110
Ireland Pr	1.2131	1.1241
Israel Shk	6.78	6.12
Italy Lira	3041	2804
Japan Yen	239.69	222.16
Malta	0.678	0.619
Netherlds Gld	3.465	3.170
New Zealand $	3.43	3.18
Norway Kr	13.49	12.55
Portugal Esc	309.88	287.85
S Africa Rd	10.97	10.01
Spain Pta	257.83	239.04
Sweden Kr	14.10	13.00
Switzerland Fr	2.537	2.319
Turkey Lira	473418	441951
USA $	1.777	1.634

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
FIRING LINE
"Who will get hit as the economic bullets fly, and who will escape the shrapnel? And, when company chairmen stand up and blame their poor results on Asia, Russia or sterling, how many of them will be justified in doing so?"
David Smith on Britain's hard landing. Business Focus tomorrow
THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Zeneca pays £117m for Australian firm

ZENECA has paid £117 million for the pharmaceuticals business of the former ICI Australia, a deal that has been delayed by months of wrangling over price. Negotiations began when ICI, Zeneca's former parent, decided to sell its Australian business in the first half of 1997. The sale of ICI's 62.4 per cent stake in ICI Australia, since renamed Orica, was completed in July last year. The Australian pharmaceuticals business essentially acts as Zeneca's distributor in the region, though it also makes cardiovascular drugs at a plant in Villawood, New South Wales.

Last year the acquired business made pro forma operating profits of A$25 million (£9 million) on sales of A$111 million. Zeneca said Australia is its 11th largest pharmaceutical market. It has recently launched Zomig, the migraine drug, in Australia, and will soon introduce Seroquel for schizophrenia and Accolate for asthma.

On Wednesday an advisory committee to the US Food and Drug Administration recommended approving tamoxifen, the Zeneca breast cancer drug sold as Nolvadex, as a way for women to reduce the risk of contracting the disease.

CF Taylor in US sale

TI GROUP, the UK aerospace company, has sold its CF Taylor aircraft galley structures business to B/E Aerospace, of Florida, for £15.4 million. CF Taylor is part of the EIS Group acquired by TI in July and employs 500 people in Wokingham, Berkshire and Dafen, South Wales. Net operating assets were £8 million and sales were £25 million in 1997. TI will retain CF Taylor's airframe components business, which will be integrated into Dowty Aerospace. B/E is the world's largest manufacturer of products for aircraft cabin interiors.

Heiton launches bid

HEITON HOLDINGS, the builders' merchant, yesterday made an all-cash offer to acquire the builders' merchanting company Cooper Clarke Group for a maximum of £19.8 million cash. The offer places a minimum value of £15.7 million on Cooper Clarke, with a further earnout potential of £4.1 million. The board of Cooper Clarke is recommending the offer to its shareholders. It recorded sales of £38.3 million in the year to December 31, 1997, and adjusted pre-tax profits of £1.8 million. Net assets were £6.1 million and total debt was £1.5 million.

Car Group sales down

SHARES in Car Group, the vehicle distributor, rose ½p to 11p even though the company said that sales were still below budget. Sales continue to run at a level of about 750 cars a week, which is significantly below the level previously budgeted, and margins are also below forecast levels. Car Group also said that discussions on refinancing and acquisitions, previously announced, continue and are likely to take another month. Car Group said that its providers of finance had agreed to continue to fund the group in the meantime.

GBE calls in receivers

GBE INTERNATIONAL, the engineering company whose shares have been suspended at 5¼p, yesterday called in Grant Thornton as receivers to its main subsidiary. GBE International, which employs 430 in Britain, has been unable to reach agreement with its bankers. Grant Thornton said: "We are reviewing the business on a contract-by-contract basis in order to decide which parts have viable futures and are likely to attract buyers. We are likely to implement a rationalisation programme to cut the cost base of the business."

Litho gives warning

SHARES in Litho Supplies, the distribution company, fell from 153½p to 144p after it gave warning that trading in the second half is expected to be difficult. Pre-tax profits in the first half to June 30 rose to £4.21 million (£4.04 million) on sales up 18.7 per cent to £44.04 million. Earnings were 10.38p (10.17p) out of which a rise in the interim dividend is proposed from 3.44p to 3.70p. John Byford, chairman, said: "Although trading in the second half is expected to be difficult, recent acquisitions have provided further opportunities for profit potential."

Dinkie Heel slips

DINKIE HEEL, the footwear group listed on the Alternative Investment Market, saw pre-tax profits fall to £159,000, from £170,000, in the six months to June 30 on sales down slightly to £4.71 million, from £4.74 million. Earnings per share fell to 0.95p, from 1.01p. The interim dividend is held at 0.6p. David Parkes, chairman, said that the acquisition of the Firth Cleveland toe-cap business gives Dinkie the chance to increase output and sales of safety steel toe-caps substantially, although it will not feel the full benefit until its 1999 financial year.

ITNet shares decline

SHARES in ITNet, the information technology group that was bought out from Cadbury Schweppes during 1995 and floated on the market this summer, fell from 385p to 367½p after the group revealed a rise in pre-tax profits from £2.5 million to £2.9 million on sales up from £37.6 million to £50.2 million. Earnings rose 21 per cent to 1.7p. Analysts attributed the fall to general weakness in the information technology sector. There is no interim dividend but the company promised shareholders a progressive dividend policy at flotation.

BoI sells Citizens stake

BANK OF IRELAND GROUP (BoI) has sold its 23.5 per cent shareholding in Citizens Financial Group, the American bank, to Royal Bank of Scotland (RBoS) for Ir£544.6 million (about £469 million). Under the terms of the agreement, originally outlined last month, BoI has raised a further £21.3 million through the sale of additional securities to RBoS. The disposal gives rise to an exceptional profit of Ir£153 million. RBoS now fully owns Citizens, which is based at Rhode Island.

Green eyes on directors' pay

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

John Monks will shortly be packing his suitcase and heading for Blackpool. He goes intent on fanning the flames of envy among his TUC brethren with stories of company directors living the high life at the expense of the workers.

The TUC will be calling on the Government to curb executive pay, and Mr Monks is increasingly confident of a positive response.

Chancellor Gordon Brown has already indicated, through pursed lips, his extreme displeasure at the level of pay rises being ladled out in the upper echelons of business, but with little apparent effect. Now, when workers are being made redundant even in the Prime Minister's constituency, the Government may feel that it can rely on exhortation no longer but must be seen to act.

Although the brothers will rejoice at such intervention, the results will inevitably be unjust. The speculation is that the Government would look at amending company law to set limits to boardroom largesse, but, even if such a mechanism were workable, it would be iniquitous. If the target is the £1 million-plus pay package, the green eyes need to be focusing well beyond the confines of company law.

A top industrialist's earnings would merit a sneer from many of the lawyers and accountants whose fees are among the burdens that companies have to meet. Barristers can notch up the equivalent of a senior boardroom salary and still enjoy the luxury of the lengthy holidays that the courtroom timetable insists upon.

What about footballers and rock stars, those heroes of Cool Britannia? What justice can there be for putting a limit on the earning power of a hard-working company boss but not on the income potential of the ghastly Gallagher brothers of Oasis fame?

Yet Mr Monks has the mood of the moment on his side and, anxious to appease the unions for keeping the lid on public sector wages, the Government is likely to act. It had already threatened to use the regulatory system to curtail the perceived excesses in boardroom pay in the utility companies; now it seems likely to extend the attack to quoted companies generally.

If this message is conveyed to the assembled crowd in Blackpool, it will guarantee the messenger a rapturous reception. It would, however, mark a dangerous stage in relationships between the Government and a business community that had been prepared to believe in New Labour.

The matter of boardroom pay is one for companies to determine, not for Governments to dictate. The brothers in Blackpool should not be trying to put a cap on pay, but reminding the Government that it does have in its power the mechanism for clobbering lawyers, accountants and rock stars as well as company executives. It is called income tax.

Getting the scent of a bargain

Dizzy spells have hit the City after a week of extraordinary ups and downs in the markets. The gains that had been notched up earlier in the year have now been wiped out and the debate is over just how much further shares have to fall. With Asia still in turmoil and a vodka-infused Hurricane Boris still blowing havoc over Russia, the omens are hardly encouraging.

A look at the performance of the stock market so far this year indicates that the pain has been far from evenly spread. Conventional wisdom has opined that the pharmaceuticals and financials, recipients of such enthusiastic buying early in the year, have seen the most vigorous selling. But the breakdown of the sectors over the past eight months shows hugely differing patterns. For some of those sectors that have fared the best so far, there may be some nasty readjustments ahead.

Retailers, for instance, are now just 7 per cent down on the year, yet the news from the high street continues to be grim. Given that the country is heading into what pessimists term a recession and even optimists view as a nasty downturn, retail stocks look uncomfortably overvalued at these levels.

Information technology, too, looks vulnerable. That the sector is still 40 per cent up on the year must owe more to hope than reason. Telecoms, still showing a 58 per cent gain on the year, must be due to come back further. No matter how strong both BT and Cable & Wireless are, they cannot but suffer as the world economies back pedal.

At the other end of the scale, the table on page 24 does highlight those sectors where the brave may begin to look for bargains. Now is not the time to be buying equities, but hidden among the engineers and other industrial companies that have already lost more than 20 per cent of their value this year, some will soon look oversold.

These will be the targets for the private equity funds that are desperate for purchases. They are stuffed with cash and short of inspiration. Currently, they are scouring the ranks of quoted companies to find those that might be taken private and profitably groomed for a stock market re-entry in a few years time, when prices are back to more generous levels.

Wily stock market investors should try to second guess these wealthy funds and pinpoint the next target for Kohlberg Kravis & Roberts, Investcorp or CINVen.

Isa best left on hold

Time is running out for Geoffrey Robinson's big idea. The timetable for bringing Isa before her eager public is beginning to look impossible to meet. The sensible thing would be for the Government to admit that it cannot hope to have a reasonable array of new savings products on offer by next April and to delay the launch. It could even put the blame on a financial services sector that has been uncooperative. Such an excuse would be unfair but in tune with the hostile attitude to the industry as epitomised in the enthusiastic naming and shaming of pensions mis-sellers.

The truth is that the industry has been asked to provide a complicated new savings scheme which has been shaped more by Mr Robinson's ideas than by what the experts would have advised. There has been some adaptation of the original proposals, but the finished version has still to be unveiled. Establishing the systems to operate the Isa will take many months and given the stress that systems people are already under as they try to stamp out the millennium bug, it is doubtful that they could have Isa up and running by April even if they wanted to do so.

There is continuing argument as to whether the Government should issue a CATmark seal of approval to some schemes. With such major questions still outstanding, Isa's debut should be postponed. That might give Mr Robinson time to reconsider the virtues of Peps and Tessas.

Tea and sympathy

GEORDIES were doubtless consoled when Peter Mandelson told them that world economic factors, not government policies were to blame for them losing their chips and their jobs. But Mandy missed a trick. He could have pointed out that the North East is not alone. The Asian crisis is now hitting folk in the soft South too. Profits have halved at Fortnum & Mason, where priced-out Asian tourists have failed to buy their customary tea and potted meats. The pound is not to blame for that either.

LME to set cap on California copper mountain

By Richard Miles

CALIFORNIA is fast becoming an important region for the international copper trade, even though there are no producers and most buyers are based several thousand miles away in Europe.

The London Metal Exchange revealed this week that two-thirds of its copper reserves — a startling 200,000 tonnes of the metal — is sitting in warehouses in Los Angeles and Long Beach.

The exchange, which acts as deliverer of last resort, is now seeking to limit the mountain of copper in its Californian warehouses in an attempt to halt any distortion in the shipping premiums paid by copper consumers. From December 2, the LME will place an indefinite cap on the amount of copper that producers are allowed to store in its warehouses, a move that some metal dealers believe is anti-competitive because it places an artificial ceiling on the trade.

Traders said the LME had opened the warehouses at the beginning of the decade as a staging post for deliveries to the Far East, despite some opposition from its own members at the time. But Asian demand for the metal has evaporated in the light of the region's economic ills, and North American producers are now shipping their stocks to the warehouse rather than exporting them to Europe.

In a statement, David King, the exchange's chief executive, said: "While early movements of metal out of these locations to South-East Asia proved the appropriateness of these good delivery points, circumstances have since changed somewhat. The exchange now considers that the current situation might undermine the concept of the LME being a deliverer of last resort. The Board has made it clear, in line with its previous statements, that it is prepared to take similar action in terms of restricting capacity in other locations and with other metals should the circumstances demand it."

It is the first time that the LME has imposed such a limit on approved warehouses. Some traders suggested that it could be the beginning of the end for the Californian warehouses. "I wouldn't be surprised if the exchange delisted them eventually," said one market participant.

David Brown hails takeover by Textron as key to growth

By Matthew Barbour



Chris Cook, left, with Chris Brown, chief executive of David Brown, which has lifted interim pre-tax profits 15 per cent

TEXTRON, the American industrial group, has emerged as the mystery suitor stalking David Brown, the UK pumps and gears specialist engineer.

Textron yesterday announced a £195 million agreed bid for the company. The offer is worth 290p a share, a premium of 80 per cent to David Brown's share price last week when a possible acquisition was first announced. Textron will also take on Brown's £61.8 million debt.

The deal is Textron's second big acquisition in the UK since last November, when it bought Ransomes, the lawnmower manufacturer, for £137 million.

Textron, which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, has operations in the aircraft, automotive, industrial and finance sectors. The company said that it views the purchase of David Brown as an opportunity to develop its interests in fluid handling and power transmission systems, which it sees as an area of particular growth.

Chris Cook, chairman of David Brown, said that the Textron offer was one of a number of "alternative paths" that the company could have taken since Schroders, the investment bank, was given the task of carrying out a strategic review earlier this year.

Mr Cook said: "One or two other firms have shown an interest, added to which, Brown's management have looked at the possibility of taking the company private." The management of David Brown took control of the company in a £46 million buyout eight years ago.

He said: "The real issue was to provide the company with necessary financial resources to help it expand globally, and Textron, with a market capital of around $10 billion is the perfect vehicle."

Despite good progress in two of Brown's businesses, its industrial gears operations have been hit recently by the UK industrial recession, the Asia crisis and currency translations in Australia and South Africa.

Mr Cook said that job cuts among Brown's 3,000 global workforce were unlikely because of the lack of overlap between the two companies.

Directors accounting for 7.3 per cent of Brown shares have accepted the offer, and Henderson Investors and AMP Asset Management, which together control 22.5 per cent, have given their blessing.

The deal ends David Brown's troubled five-year history on the London Stock Exchange and its life as an independent business since being set up in Huddersfield in 1860.

David Brown yesterday reported financial results for the half year to July 31, showing pre-tax profits up 15 per cent, at £9.1 million (£7.9 million), on turnover up 27 per cent, at £116.6 million (£91 million). The shares rose 36½p to 280p.

Fall in European Telecom shares

By Martin Barrow

SHARES in European Telecom fell 90p to 140p after the distributor of mobile phones and accessories warned investors that first-half profits would be "substantially" below market expectations.

The fall in the share price wiped off almost £30 million from the company's stock market value. The shares had already fallen sharply from a peak of 392½p in June amid concern about the company's prospects.

Yesterday's warning will come as an embarrassment to Ian Lang, who was appointed deputy chairman a year ago to work alongside Warren Hardy, the chairman and chief executive who founded the company. In July Mr Hardy raised £4.9 million with the sale of a 4.3 per cent stake in European Telecom, netting 351p a share. At the time Mr Hardy and the company's brokers, Collins Stewart, said the shares had been sold to satisfy institutional demand for the stock.

Mr Hardy raised £4 million in 1996 when the company he founded in 1990 was floated at 115p a share. He also sold shares worth £11 million a year ago.

Yesterday, European Telecom blamed adverse markets in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The company said export markets outside Europe would remain volatile.

Fast track boost for Celltech

CELLTECH yesterday announced that US regulators are willing to give fast track consideration to its treatment for a serious bowel disorder called Crohns's disease (Paul Durman writes).

The decision by the US Food and Drug Administration means Celltech will be able to seek a licence for its engineered antibody in the year 2000, a year ahead of schedule. Shares in the drug development company, which fell below 200p last month, rose 32½p yesterday to 277½p.

Last week Celltech said it would receive another licence payment, believed to be about $4 million, from Centocor of the US.

Vitec hits back with profits leap

By Martin Barrow

VITEC GROUP, the broadcast and photographic systems and services company, delivered a vigorous response to brokers who have marked its shares down 31 per cent since June, with record first-half profits and an upbeat statement on prospects.

The company yesterday said profits rose to £19.1 million from £17.3 million in the six months to June 30 despite the adverse impact of the strength of the pound. Weaker demand in Asia was offset by resilient markets in Europe and the US.

Businesses within the Vitec stable range from manufacturers of camera stands to the supply of specialist systems for use in aerospace. Bexel, a subsidiary that provides broadcast services, saw demand rise strongly during the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

Turnover rose to £79.95 million (£67.17 million). Trading profits from continuing businesses rose 11.6 per cent to £19.5 million. At constant exchange rates profits would have been £20.5 million. The interim dividend rises to 4.3p a share from 3.7p, payable from earnings of 25.7p (24.1p).

The shares rose 2½p to 537½p yesterday. Malcolm Baggott, chief executive, described the outlook as "positive". The company, which completed three acquisitions during the period, is looking for further purchases.

Stonewalled

THE pick-axes are out in Oxfordshire over a housing development in the village of Somerton. Farmington Natural Stone, a Cotswolds quarry firm, reckons it has been harshly treated after Cherwell planning officials banned the use of its stone on a number of new houses in the village.

According to Farmington, planners halted use of the stone after realising that it was considerably lighter in tone than the 200-year-old houses on the other side of the road. To add insult to injury, the housebuilder subsequently awarded the contract to one of the firm's closest competitors.

Farmington has now started bombarding planning officers with leaflets headed "Divine Lessons", showing how limestone changes colour naturally as it weathers. A spokesman says: "They failed to realise that natural stone was produced by God, not man, and that He alone controls the weathering process."

But Tim Brunton, the council's senior planning officer, is unrepentant. "The natural colour of the limestone in this part of Oxfordshire is grey-brown. The sample Farmington produced on site was very light and creamy. It would have stood out like a sore thumb." And with only the merest hint of sarcasm, he adds: "We have worked out that stone does weather."

MY thanks to Matthew Czepliewicz, European banking analyst at Salomon Smith Barney, for sending me his latest piece of research, Norwegian Banks — An Early Blast of Winter. *It is almost as impenetrable as his name.*

Unto Caesar

THE millennium bug appears to have come early at the Inland Revenue. I have been sent a copy of a surcharge notice relating to the late payment of a tax bill for the "tax year ended 5 April 0000". The accountant whose client received the notice has written to the Inland Revenue pointing out: "As the appropriate taxing authority at the time was Caesar Augustus, we can only assume *purgamentum init, exit purgamentum.*" I'm afraid my Latin isn't what it used to be, but it just goes to show that some accountants do have a sense of humour after all.

Cut above

K-BAR, the Ofex-listed chain of bars beloved of Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, is considering seeking promotion to the Alternative Investment Market. Since the first New York-style bar opened in Putney last year, it has migrated to Soho, Chelsea, Wimbledon and Bournemouth, and further bars are in the pipeline for Bristol, Swindon, Bath, Oxford and Edinburgh.

The group, which owns the trendy Karlouche restaurant, is also planning to branch out into men's grooming with the launch of the first K-barber in Mayfair this December. The company is tight-lipped over details, but I sincerely hope that the K-bar mission statement, to be "louche and loungy", will not be abandoned.

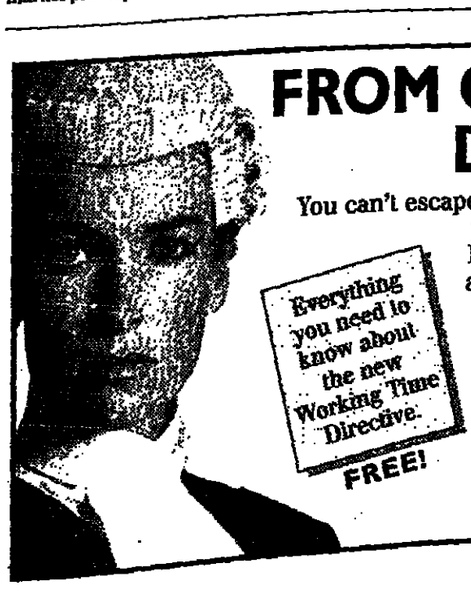
THE TIMES CITY DIARY



Palmer-Tomkinson: fan of the Ofex-listed K-Bar

CALL me a cynic, but the claim this week by IG Index, the spread betting outfit, that a City broker has taken it for more than £500,000 during the recent market falls has the whiff of a PR stunt about it. IG Index's Michael Murray assures me the story is "100 per cent kosher" but is adamant his client will not agree to give up his anonymity. All he will say is that he's 36, a broker with a UK institution and "he's always been a bear". In the pursuit of the truth, City Diary is offering a bottle of champagne to the first person who can identify the successful punter. And your anonymity is guaranteed (honestly).

Dominic Walsh



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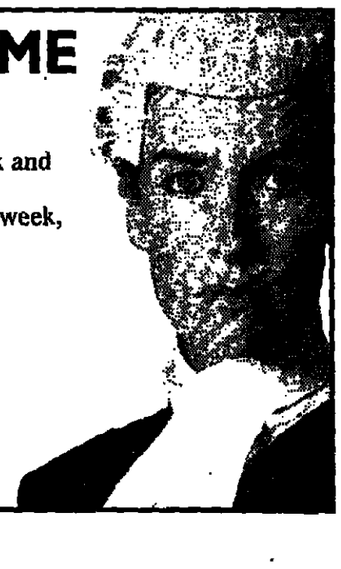
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Chris Ayres discovers that Britannia's coolest club really wants to be like Disney

Men from the Ministry blow their cover

If James Palumbo and Mark Rodol had not got there first, the Government would undoubtedly have invented the Ministry of Sound. The gigantic South London nightclub, founded by Mr Palumbo and run by Mr Rodol, has packaged and branded the concept of Cool Britannia in a way that would impress even a government spin-doctor. Perhaps that is why the king of spin himself, Peter Mandelson, is so often seen visiting the club and schmoozing with its management.

The Ministry generates sales of £25 million a year through its clubs, clothes, publishing, artist management and radio empire, and is thought to make profits of £5 million. This month it celebrates its seventh anniversary, and it plans to mark the occasion by launching an enormously ambitious expansion overseas. Asia and the Middle East will both be targeted.

The Ministry's brand has become so successful in the 18- to 24-year-old market in Britain that much larger companies — such as breweries and cigarette manufacturers — come to it for marketing advice. The Ministry is happy to play along, and has even signed a sponsorship deal with BAT, the tobacco giant, to accompany its move into China.

Ethics, it would seem, are not high on the Ministry's list of priorities, in spite of its mass youth appeal. "In the market in which we operate, the subject of ethics is a difficult one to contemplate," says Mr Rodol, who admits that the Ministry would not sign a sponsorship deal with BAT in the US, where tobacco companies are less welcome. The Ministry is also aware that it will be indirectly making money from drug consumption: after all, the club's opening hours of midnight until 10am are ideal for the amphetamine-charged teenager.

Mr Rodol says: "Our view is we've done more than any other club to educate both clubbers and the authorities about drugs. But I think there is an acceptance that if you put 2,000 young people in one place at a time you're going to get a certain amount of drug dealing."

In contrast to the Ministry's outright commercialism, the club turns away up to 400 punters a night — either because they don't look trendy enough, or they don't give the right answers to the doorman about what kind of music they listen to. "It is elitist," says Mr Rodol. "We're not ashamed of that. But the club's not going to be enjoyable if it's not full of like-minded people." Mr Rodol himself dresses fairly soberly in jeans, black suede shoes and a blue tank-top.







All the rage: even the Government's Peter Mandelson, bottom right, is a high-profile fan of the Ministry of Sound empire created by James Palumbo, above, and Mark Rodol, top right

The contradiction between the Ministry's "authentic" image and the way it is run as a business were underlined by comments recently made by Mr Palumbo to *The Wall Street Journal*.

He famously said of his own nightclub: "I understand the music, but don't find it intellectually interesting. Now Beethoven, there was an innovator." Having dug his own hole, he then went ahead and sat in it, saying that the nightclub industry was run mainly by "egotistical sleazebags". Presumably, it was not a reference to himself.

But the charges of elitism and cynicism have so far not influenced Britain's two million clubbers. The Ministry's exclusivity, combined with its nationwide brand recognition, has simply fuelled demand, with about 5,000 punters going through the club's doors each week. Thousands of ambitious young people also apply for jobs with the company each year. The average age of staff is 23, and Mr Rodol says that those who are successful will earn between £30,000 and £50,000 a year. About 85 people are employed by the Ministry, with Mr Rodol claiming that work is "like a religion" to them.

Although Mr Rodol says that there are no set working hours, the Ministry's employees often work 12-hour days. As they walk through the door, an enormous neon-lit sign greets them with the message: "We are building a global entertainment business based on a strong aspirational brand, respected for its creativity and quality. The Ministry of Sound team will be more professional, hard-working and innovative than any other on the planet." Next to the sign is a mocked-up picture of Margaret Thatcher dressed in rubber and chains and another of Ronald Reagan dressed as a pimp in a white fur coat. The overall effect is confusing, if not a little sinister.

The Ministry was formed seven years ago when Mr Palumbo, the son of Lord Palumbo, the property magnate, decided that he was bored with his career in banking. Clubs were recovering from the bad-taste excesses of the 1980s, and many dance music fans had begun organising their own events in disused aircraft hangars or fields.

Mr Palumbo's aim was to bring the kind of enormous nightclubs that could be found in New York — such as Paradise Garage and the Sound Factory — to London. He was convinced that dance music would grow in popularity and that people would pay up to £15 each to attend a safe club that opened from midnight until 10 the next morning. In the end, the club — which was nearly called Mad Axe Man on Acid — was based in Southwark, one of the few London boroughs that would grant it a 24-hour licence. An agency in Notting Hill designed its logo for £150, with the Ministry costing just £500,000 in total to set up. Mr Palumbo took complete ownership and Mr Rodol, a chartered surveyor, was installed as chief executive, after meeting Mr Palumbo through a property deal. Both were then in their mid-twenties.

The empire grew when the club decided to hire resident DJs, who would spend all evening mixing records without ever talking over them. Because dance music was disposable, and acts often renamed themselves every other week, the DJs became the stars. The Ministry, with its strong brand name, became the perfect vehicle to exploit the growing value of DJs. From that moment, the Ministry began to experience enormous growth. It realised that it could organise Ministry of Sound tours by taking its resident DJs and corporate logos around the country.

The thought of entering the music business did not occur to Mr Rodol until he stumbled across someone selling Ministry of Sound compilation tapes from a suitcase in London's Camden Market. Again, the Ministry was able to use its brand to bring a diverse collection of dance music into the marketplace. The first Ministry album, released in 1993, was expected to sell 5,000 copies. It sold 60,000. The Ministry is now selling two million albums each year. In total, it has released 40 albums and is the only independent record label to get albums into the Top 20.

From clubs, artist management and music, it was natural for the company to move into other areas. A clothing store was launched in London's Covent Garden. Merchandise is now also sold through the Littlewoods catalogue. The club's DJs now broadcast on several radio stations, and the company has launched its own magazine, *Ministry*. This, however, has not gone smoothly, with the company ending its joint venture agreement with Dennis Publishing after editorial clashes.

Mr Rodol is now preparing for further expansion, and although he says a flotation of the company is unlikely, outside investors may be let in to fund its activities abroad. The company is currently mulling over the possibility of moving into television, although Mr Rodol fears that it may "dilute the brand". He rejects comparisons with Richard Branson's Virgin, enjoying the more unlikely comparison with Walt Disney. "We have become slightly Disneyesque," he says. "People also compare us to Virgin, but we tend to be more synergistic than that. We like to compare ourselves to Disney." As long as the clubbers outside don't know that, the Ministry should go far.

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WIN A CLASSIC FERRARI 328 GTB

ENTER FOR THE ITALIAN GRAND PRIX TODAY

Leading the race to win a classic Ferrari 328 GTB, or a trip to either the 1999 Australian or Monaco Grands Prix, is D Edbrooks-Stainer from Petersfield, Hants. His team, Grab 3, scored 409 points in Belgium to take his total to 10,860 points. N Watts from Woking, Surrey, wins a trip to the 1999 British GP. His team, Wolfhound 2, scored 726 points. **HOW TO ENTER** Pick six drivers and six constructors, three from each of the four groups below. To qualify for the Italian Grand Prix UK readers should call **0891 40 50 01** (RoI +44 990 100 311) before noon on Thursday September 10 using a Touch-tone telephone and tap in their 12 selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. **Checkline** Check your score after the Belgian race by calling **0891 884 648** (+44 990 100 348 ex UK) using your PIN. **Faxback Service** Call our faxback service on **0991 111 444** (UK only. Calls cost £1/min). **Transfers** Change up to four selections before the Italian race by calling **0891 555 994** (+44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon on Thursday September 10. An updated leaderboard will be published next Friday.

THE TIMES FANTASY FORMULA ONE

RESULTS OF THE BELGIAN GRAND PRIX

DRIVERS: Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole M Hakkinen 30 points; 2nd D Coulthard 25; 3rd D Hill 24; 4th M Schumacher 23; 5th E Irvine 22; 6th J Villeneuve 21; 7th G Fisichella 20; 8th R Schumacher 19; 9th H-H Frentzen 18; 10th J Alesi 17; 11th A Wurz 16; 12th J Herbert 15; 13th J Trulli 14; 14th R Barrichello 13; 15th O Panis 12; 16th P Diniz 11; 17th J Verstappen 10; 18th M Salo 9; 19th T Takagi 8; 20th R Rosset 7. **Finishing points** (scored for the top 20 classified positions at the end of every grand prix): 1st D Hill 60 points; 2nd R Schumacher 50; 3rd J Alesi 40; 4th H-H Frentzen 30; 5th P Diniz 29; 6th J Trulli 28; 7th D Coulthard 27; 8th S Nakano 26. (Only 8 were classified). **Lap points** (one point for each lap completed): D Hill 44 points; R Schumacher 44; J Alesi 44; H-H Frentzen 44; P Diniz 44; J Trulli 42; D Coulthard 39; S Nakano 39; G Fisichella 26; E Irvine 25; M Schumacher 25; E Tuero 17; J Villeneuve 16; T Takagi 10; J Verstappen 8; A Wurz 0; J Herbert 0; M Hakkinen 0; O Panis 0; R Barrichello 0; M Salo 0; R Rosset 0. **Improvement from starting grid to finishing position** (3 points for each improved place): S Nakano 39 points; P Diniz 33; J Alesi 21; J Trulli 21; R Schumacher 18; H-H Frentzen 15; D Hill 6. **Fastest lap** time of grand prix: M Schumacher 10 points. **Penalty points** Incident resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none. **Did not finish the race** (10 points deducted): M Hakkinen -10 points; J Herbert -10; A Wurz -10; J Verstappen -10; T Takagi -10; J Villeneuve -10; E Tuero -10; M Schumacher -10; E Irvine -10; G Fisichella -10. **Not starting after qualifying** (10 points deducted): R Rosset -10 points; M Salo -10; R Barrichello -10; O Panis -10. **Speeding in the pit lane** (5 points deducted): none.

CONSTRUCTORS: Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): Jordan 30 points; Sauber 24; Williams 23; Arrows 22; Prost 21; McLaren 20; Minardi 19. **Penalty points** Incident resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none. **Elimination of a car during the race** (10 points deducted): Ferrari -20 points; Benetton -20; Minardi -10; Williams -10; Tyrrell -10; Stewart -10; Sauber -10; McLaren -10. **Not starting after qualifying** (10 points deducted): Tyrrell -10 points; Arrows -10; Prost -10; Stewart -10. **Speeding in the pit lane** (5 points deducted): none.

BONUS POINTS apply to six grands prix during the 1998 Formula One championship. The fifth is the Italian GP. **Correctly predicting winning driver**: 100 points; second place: 200 points; third place: 300 points

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

The first column of figures after the names below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the Belgian GP. The second column shows the total points in the competition so far

DRIVERS

GROUP A			GROUP B		
01 D Hill	134	1110	12 A Wurz	6	1295
02 M Schumacher	48	1665	13 R Schumacher	131	1029
03 D Coulthard	91	1507	14 J Trulli	105	832
04 G Fisichella	36	1193	15 J Herbert	5	999
05 J Villeneuve	27	1436	16 M Salo	-1	611
06 O Panis	2	887	17 P Diniz	117	713
07 H-H Frentzen	107	1128	18 J Verstappen	8	777
08 E Irvine	37	1398	19 T Takagi	8	792
09 M Hakkinen	20	1600	20 R Rosset	-3	502
10 J Alesi	122	1213	21 S Nakano	104	1099
11 R Barrichello	3	724	22 E Tuero	7	549

*Jos Verstappen replaces Jan Magnussen in the Stewart-Ford team from the French Grand Prix. Rule 2 applies.

CONSTRUCTORS

GROUP C			GROUP D		
23 Williams	13	207	29 Sauber	14	92
24 Ferrari	-20	261	30 Arrows	12	-66
25 Benetton	-20	151	31 Stewart	-20	-61
26 McLaren	10	269	32 Tyrrell	-20	-11
27 Jordan	30	103	33 Minardi	9	11
28 Prost	11	-28			

FANTASY FORMULA ONE 24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0891 40 50 01
+44 990 100 311 outside the UK

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls).

CHANGING TIMES

'Jockweiller' sets sparks flying in power sector

Some workers in the pretty Tayside city of Perth are braced for a shock. "Jockweiller" is about to arrive.

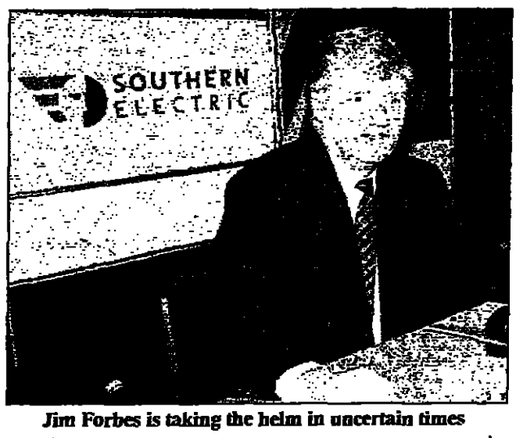
Jockweiller, to his friends, is Jim Forbes, chief executive of Southern Electric — soon to make the journey from his Maidenhead lair back to his home country when he takes charge of the new superpower in energy, Scottish and Southern Energy. For Forbes the move will not only be a homecoming, but also the scaling of the pinnacle of his career after more than 30 years in the electricity industry.

Forbes is to be the new chief executive of the combined Scottish Hydro and Southern Electric, whose £4.9 billion merger was announced this week.

He sat alongside the mild-mannered and urbane Roger Young, the present chief executive of Scottish Hydro, as they unveiled their surprise wedding. Forbes, the tough-talking Glaswegian, had finally — after several abortive merger talks with other utilities — found a partner he could work with. However, that partner was already on his way out of the company — Young revealed that he had already asked his board to look for a replacement.

A departing partner, therefore, has left the path completely clear for Forbes to run what will be one of Britain's biggest energy companies. Young's exit has enabled Forbes to answer the many and increasingly urgent questions about just what the UK's only independent regional electricity company intended to do in the face of impending competition and against companies with greater scale and vision.

At last he had made it to the finishing line after a quest that started more than two years ago with the planned takeover of Southern by National Power. That party was spoiled by Ian Lang, then President of the Board of Trade, who surprisingly overruled a Monopolies and Mergers Commission judgment and blocked the deal.



Jim Forbes is taking the helm in uncertain times

Next Forbes turned his attention to his neighbour, Southern Water. Ironically, that dream was to turn to dust after he was usurped by his first employer, the South Scotland Electricity Board, in its post-privatisation guise as ScottishPower. After two failures Forbes went to ground, talking much of the value of independence. Few believed him, in the face of an industry in a state of transformation. Behind the scenes he sounded out a variety of potential partners, including Thames Water and Yorkshire Water. The talks came to nothing despite Forbes's solid reputation as a manager and cost-cutter.

Jockweiller, while effective at Southern Electric, may have failed to charm potential partners in a merged business. Enthusiasm may have got the better of diplomacy.

There is little doubt about Forbes's enthusiasm for his job and for Southern's potential to take advantage of the introduction of competition in the supply of domestic electricity. But ironically the independent Southern Electric has fallen behind in the race to get technology in place to be able to win customers from rivals. Nevertheless, Forbes has continued to push his case on Southern's potential. His manner of evangelist and used-car salesman is irrepressible regardless of the circumstances he faces.

His talents were nurtured 12 years ago when he became South Scotland's marketing manager. He continued in a similar vein when he joined Northern Electric as commercial director in 1989. He stayed there, moving up to distribution director, until seven years ago when he moved to Hampshire to become operations director at Southern.

The nickname of Jockweiller has been set in concrete at Southern as Forbes has presided over a ruthless reduction in staff. The number of employees has more than halved from pre-privatisation levels and stands now at a modest 3,000. More will go with the fusion with Scottish Hydro and, uncomfortably for Forbes, a chunk of these will be at his Maidenhead headquarters as the power centre of the merged business shifts to Perth.

The loss of the Maidenhead headquarters in what was otherwise a merger of equals rather than a takeover was perhaps the only injury sustained by Forbes. Scottish Hydro was declared to have more directors on the merged board but Forbes had managed to secure that his people, including himself, occupied most of the top slots.

He will soon stand at the helm of a company at the forefront of the UK energy industry when only the brave or foolish can forecast how the industry will develop. Full-blown competition is around the corner.

This will be the task facing Forbes 32 years after starting work as an apprentice in the Scottish electricity industry. It is a weighty homecoming for the 52-year-old. Although, as he joked at the announcement of the Scottish/Southern alliance, a homecoming is not necessarily how Perth will view the situation. As a Glaswegian, he may require a passport to get in.

If Jockweiller were not to get a passport, he would no doubt bludgeon his way in with customary forcefulness.

CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

IN THE HOT SEAT

CV: JIM FORBES

1946: Born Glasgow
1964: Joined South Scotland Electricity Board as an apprentice. While there obtained first class honours in electrical engineering from Paisley College of Technology
1973: Appointed area commercial officer
1986: Became marketing manager
1989: Joined Northern Electric as commercial director
1991: Became Northern Electric's distribution director
1991: Joins Southern Electric as operations director
1995: Becomes managing director of electricity
1996: Appointed chief operating officer and then chief executive

هكذا من الاهرام

هكذا من الأصل

STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

Shares nudge ahead as traders abandon Sets

THIS week's volatile performance by the market has forced dealers to abandon the London Stock Exchange's prestigious computer trading system, Sets, in their droves.

Instead, they have reverted to the traditional method of buying and selling shares over the telephone after complaining that the levels of liquidity on Sets had fallen so low as to make it impossible to complete transactions.

Sets matches buyers with sellers on computerised trading screens. Business is concentrated among the top 100 companies and it had been hoped to extend trading in Sets to second- and even third-line stocks. But teething troubles with the system, introduced in October last year, means such a move is likely to be postponed.

One of the chief complaints from traders is the ability of some players to manipulate the market by feeding rogue prices into the system. This causes the spread between buying and selling prices to grow and can result in investors losing out.

Private client brokers say the system is also slow and ungainly and increases costs because of the absence of a central counter party for settlement.

A glance at leading shares showed the extent of the problem. **Shell** rose 3½p to 361½p as a total of 38.5 million shares had changed hands. Less than half had been traded on Sets. **Whitbread** rose 7p to 727p on turnover of 515,854 shares. Only 306,854 had been completed on Sets.

Other active stocks included **Vodafone**, up 14p at 736p (12.45 million shares, Sets 4.4 million), **Barclays Bank**, up 36p at £12.30 (6.27 million, Sets 2.8 million). **Glaxo Wellcome**, 26p higher at £18.14 (4.08 million, Sets 1.57 million).

It was the same in **Cable & Wireless**, down 4p at 583p, with less than a third of the 3.4 million turnover traded on Sets. **NatWest Bank** slipped 2p to 939p with 1.16 million shares going through the system compared with total turnover of 3.2 million.

One broker said: "There just wasn't the volume up on Sets for people to complete their trades. We had no choice but to pick up the phones."

Trading generally proved lacklustre, with both dealers and investors seemingly taking a breather after the helter-skelter performance of the past few days. London made a firm start, hoping to pre-empt a recovery on Wall Street after Thursday night's setback. The Dow Jones industrial average duly kicked in with an opening rise but quickly went into reverse ahead of the extended US Bank Holiday weekend.

As a result, the FTSE 100 index closed below its best levels, with a rise of 48.3 at 5,167.0. That reduced the deficit on the week to 82.4 points. The index is now just 31.5 above the level it started the year at, having hit a closing high of 6,179.0 on July 20.

The FTSE 250 index rose 14.5 at 4,663.3, while the FTSE All-share closed up 18.78 at 2,396.94. Total turnover reached 884 million shares.

Next week is likely to see the spotlight focus back on domestic matters, with the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee meeting and a long list of blue chips reporting.

Billiton, up 9p at 122p, is expected to report a healthy increase in profits on Monday, in order to help to preserve its position as a constituent of the top 100 companies.

Cadbury Schweppes, whose chairman is Sir Dominic Cadbury and chief executive John Sunderland, fell 16p to 819p after a downgrading of profits by ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker. But Hoare is urging clients to buy on the first signs of weakness.

Coca-Cola rose 4p to 158p with Warburg Dillon Read, the broker, picking up a parcel of shares on behalf of the Coca-Cola Corporation.

Tesco retreated 6p to 167½p after a big seller unloaded 4.5 million shares at 168½p as part of a bought deal executed by Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker. Kleinwort also picked up 4.79 million shares in **Asda** at 187½. Asda closed 1½p cheaper at 186p.

European Telecom was the worst performer of the day, plunging 87½p, or 38 per cent, to 142½p, after becoming the latest company to issue a profits warning. The mobile-phone operator said profits for the first six months of the year would be "disappointing". It blamed the downturn in emerging markets.

The bid for **TLG**, up 17p at 166½p, duly emerged with Cooper Industries, the US group, offering £321 million, or 160p a share. **Wassall**, with about 10 per cent of TLG, firmed 2p to 249½p.

David Brown also came up trumps, with a rise of 36½p at 280p after receiving an offer worth 290p a share (£194.9 million) from Textron, the American outfit. The materialisation of the bid may account for the reason why one buyer was prepared to pay a hefty 245p for 50,000 shares late on Thursday.

Debt laden **Queens Moat**, down ½p at 23¼p, may use its half-year results next week to announce the sale of four hotels in Germany for about £15 million.

Desire Petroleum dropped 36½p to 108½p after abandoning a well offshore of the Falkland Islands.

The agreed bid of 112½p from Hartrade lifted **UPF Group** 20p to 110p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices in the London market recovered from early losses to close virtually unchanged on the day. Brokers said the start of trading had been accompanied by further profits, but once this had dried up prices quickly recovered their poise.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt finished just £0.03 down at £112.26 as 43,000 contracts were completed. The short-dated future also shed £0.03 at £105.37 in thin trading that saw turnover reach 76 contracts.

In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 slipped £1/16 to £136 19/32, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 finished unchanged at £103 23/32.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares were lower at midday after an early jump in choppy trading. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 19.83 at 7,662.39.



John Sunderland, left, and Sir Dominic Cadbury saw a 16p dip

Will Bradstock Group be the next insurance broker to come under the hammer? It is certainly looking vulnerable with the price having come back from a peak of 88½p last year to close 1p firmer at 45½p — just 5½p above its low. One buyer thinks a bid may be on the cards having picked up 100,000 shares at 44½p yesterday.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Barclays Bank	£12.30	—185p	Russian write-offs
David Brown	280p	+50½p	Textron bids 290p
European Telecom	142½p	—135p	Profits warning
TLG	166½p	+20p	Cooper bids £321 million
Rubicon	227½p	+67½p	Applied Power offers 235p
Hickson International	50p	+3p	Profits recover
Mayborn Group	61½p	—33p	Profits warning
Pilkington	67½p	—10½p	Institutional sellers
Eidos	747½p	+137½p	Signs Michael Owen

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 7662.39 (-19.83)
S&P Composite 976.98 (-5.28)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 14042.91 (-218.33)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 7488.47 (+169.58)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index 1072.69 (-2.86)

Sydney:
AO 2504.0 (-9.3)

Frankfurt:
DAX 4820.25 (+8.07)

Singapore:
Straits 805.04 (-7.66)

Brussels:
BEL20 3291.79 (+66.11)

Paris:
CAC-40 3690.75 (+44.29)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 1305.00 (+8.50)

London:
FT 30 3284.3 (+17.6)
FTSE 100 5167.0 (+48.3)
FTSE 250 4663.3 (+14.5)
FTSE 350 2471.2 (+20.4)
FTSE Eurotop 100 2499.63 (+35.05)
FTSE All-Share 2396.94 (+18.78)
FTSE Non Financials 2476.68 (+27.74)
FTSE Fixed Interest 147.15 (+0.17)
FTSE Govt Secs 108.23 (+0.03)
Bargains 50379
SEAQ Volume 887.3m
US$ 1.6736 (-0.0078)
German Mark 2.9029 (+0.0025)
Exchange Index 104.3 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.4744
£:SDR 1.2387
RPI 163.0 Jul (3.5%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX 160.5 Jul (2.6%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Chaucer A Wts	12½	...
Coca-Cola (160)	158	+ 4
Enterprise Cap B Pf	55½	...
Firestone Diamonds	84½	...
GBIGT Secs Zero Div	167¼	+ ¼
Gart Br Inc & Gth	48½	− ½
Gartmore Br Inc	87½	+ 1½
Gartmore New Inc	85	...
Inter Link Foods	99½	...
Kiln	122½	...
MEPC Non Cum Pf B	96½	...
Metnor Grp	112½	...
Murray Ext Rm Cap	17	...
Murray Ext Rm Inc	107½	+ 1
Murray Extra Zero Dv	99½	...
Parallel Pictures	28½	...
Private & Comm Fin	64	+ ½
Sodra Petroleum	37½	...
SupaRule	90½	...
Syndct Cp Wts 98/02	22½	...
Torotrak	162½	− 5
Tribune IT Index	506	− ½
Walker Greenbank B	33	...
Wilmslow Group	2½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Cadoro n/p (35) 009 ...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
SOCO Intl 68 (+20½p)
Business Post 710p (+55p)
Thomson Travel 138½p (+10p)
Shield Diag 505p (+27½p)
Provident 900p (+45p)
BPP 512½p (+25p)
Reed Int 494p (+24p)
Compass Gp 554p (+26p)
Air London 296p (+13½p)
EMI 419p (+19p)
Gaskell 400p (+17p)

FALLS:
Flying Flw Uts 153½p (-15p)
Abbot Gp 159p (-15p)
Admiral 952½p (-50p)
Brake Bros 742½p (-35p)
HIT Enter 490p (-22½p)
DCS Gp 485½p (-22p)
Reckitt Colm 940p (-40p)

Closing Prices Page 22

TEMPUS

Informed about IT

FOR investors there is an agonising paradox in information technology companies. The need to find opportunities is acute because the future growth is so much more attractive than most other run-of-the-mill industrial or even service-sector opportunities. Yet demand for quoted IT stock far outstrips supply.

It is straightforward stock shortage that explains why shares in companies such as Logica, Sema and CMG are changing hands at 40, 50 and 60 times earnings per share. It is tempting for investors to ignore the classic valuation benchmarks and justify buying by dreaming up other ways of valuing these companies. But that would be a mistake. The p/e ratios indicate exactly what they indicate, that the shares are very expensive.

Given the growth profiles it is worth paying 30 times earnings, perhaps a bit more, for quality firms. Opportunities among quoted firms do exist, but investors need to find other ways to get exposure to this key segment of the UK and the world economy. One strategy is to invest laterally so that, instead of chasing primary providers of information technology, look for opportunities in companies that stand to benefit from advances in information technology. Invest, in other words, in the consumer rather than the provider.

The second way is to look for investments further down the scale, among the unquoted. The kind of workload involved in finding opportunities here may be high, but if investors wait for IT companies to find them they risk being asked to pay prices that limit upside growth.

Increasing weighting to IT-specialising private equity funds is part of the solution.

Wassall

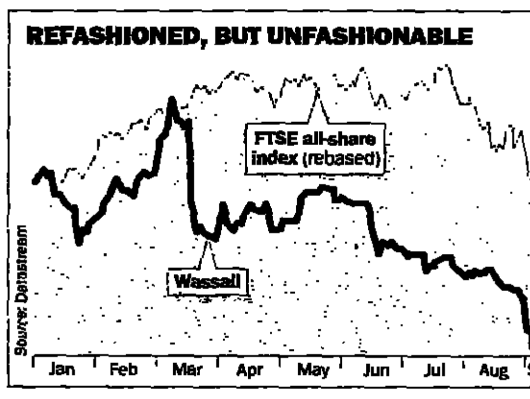
HAVING spent 20 months patiently building up a 14 per cent stake in TLG, Wassall must now decide whether it wants to fight over the lighting company with Cooper Industries, the $5 billion US group that yesterday made an offer of £321 million. The odds must be against it: Wassall's rival is a trade investor that has just strengthened its firepower with a £1.1 billion disposal.

Yet Wassall wins if it walks away. It started buying when TLG's shares were about 100p; its average acquisition price may be not much more than 110p which implies Wassall will emerge with a profit of perhaps £14 million on an investment of about £31 million.

Assuming it is banked, this is another shrewd investment by Chris Miller and his team, in keeping with the £278 million reaped from General Cable in the US.

However, Wassall's recent move to play to its strengths, by evolving from a conglomerate into more of a Warren Buffett-style financial investment group, has met with a dismal reception from its shareholders. The share price has tumbled from 381p in March to 249½p.

This is absurd for a company with such a strong record. Wassall ended last year with £324 million in cash — a pile that Cooper's bid will increase. This values the rest of its businesses, which made £23 million in profits last year, at only £63 million. Wassall is a bargain. Buy.



Hammerson

RON SPINNEY, chief executive of Hammerson, was distinctly downbeat yesterday about the property market, in spite of the fact that his company reported on a sound financial performance in the first half of the year.

Hammerson's response to the slowdown in the UK property market — rental incomes rose less than 4 per cent in the first six months of the year and continue sluggishly — has been to try to buy its way out of the mire. Including yesterday's three deals, the company has spent more than £250 million on investments this year.

Much of the expansion has been in France and, while the French property market may be in rude health, it makes up just 17 per cent of Hammerson's investment portfolio. As a result it would have to show tremendous growth to offset a significant downturn in the UK — where the company still has 63 per cent of its investments. Mr Spinney is keen to maintain the UK weighting, although whether this is the right point in the economic cycle to be embarking on the development of shopping centres is debatable.

Many property sector shares have suffered more than is fair this summer, but Hammerson's exposure to retail, where there is greater fear of softness, justifiably undermines its attractions.

UPF

INVESTORS in UPF have a right to feel aggrieved. Having backed this company and its ambitious plans for expansion when it came to the stock market in 1994, they are now being offered a mere 4½p premium to the original flotation price, in a deal that proposes to take the firm private.

These have been years of plenty for the automotive industry, yet UPF's record as a quoted company is unimpressive, with profits and turnover rising only modestly.

Keith Evans, the chief executive, believes he has discovered the way forward for UPF, through the takeover of a privately owned German components manufacturer that incurred a £3 million loss last year and is saddled with debts of about £15 million.

Mr Evans is confident a turnaround can be achieved but fears his current band of investors are unable to take the pace. With venture capitalists prepared to provide the funds, he reasons, why bother risking their displeasure.

In this case current investors have little choice but to accept the proposals, which have the air of a done deal anyway. But it is worth considering whether a decent growth opportunity is being allowed to slip away.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Sep	1041-1036	Dec	1173-1170
Dec	1071-1070	Mar	1194-1190
Mar	1098-1097	May	unq
May	1116-1115	Jul	—
Jul	1134-1132		
Sep	1151-1149	Volume:	4386

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Sep	1685-1678	May	1556 SLR
Nov	1660-1658	Jul	1550 SLR
Jan	1604-1600	Sep	unq
Mar	1570-1568	Volume:	3984

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		May	239.8-38.9
Spot: unq		Aug	246.3-44.5
Oct	227.3-27.2	Oct	247.3-45.0
Dec	229.2-28.5	Dec	252.2-47.5
Mar	234.3-33.9	Volume:	2982

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on September 3

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	42.61	88.01	84.34
(+/-)	n/c	-3.62	-0.47
Eng/Wales:	42.61	88.41	82.25
(+/-)	n/c	-3.68	-0.44
(%)	+9.0	-14.0	-7.0
Scotland:	unq	86.35	92.07
(+/-)	—	-3.28	-1.60
(%)	—	-9.0	+4.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	12.95	+0.35
Brent 15 day (Oct)	13.40	+0.45
Brent 15 day (Nov)	13.60	+0.40
W Texas Intermediate (Oct)	14.65	+0.40
W Texas Intermediate (Nov)	14.85	+0.40

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	143 (-1)	148 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	117 (+5)	119 (+5)
3.5 Fuel Oil	57 (+1)	60 (+3)
Naphtha	110 (n/c)	113 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Sep	116.25-16.50	Dec	125.50-25.75
Oct	119.50-19.75	Jan	128.25-28.50
Nov	122.50-22.75		Vol: 13518

BRENT (6.00pm)

Oct	13.36-13.38	Jan	n/a
Nov	13.59-13.60	Feb	n/a
Dec	13.82-13.84		Vol: 19701

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Sep	70.75	Sep	68.50
Nov	72.00	Nov	70.00
Jan	74.00	Jan	72.15
Mar	75.60	Mar	74.15
May	77.60	May	75.15
Volume: 199		Volume: 38	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Nov	unq	76.0
Mar	—	112.5
Apr	163.0	160.0
		Volume: 93

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k) Oct 46.75-47.25

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Sep 98	869	864	864
Oct 98	945	940	940
Nov 98	960	960	960
Jan 99	unq	—	978

Vol: 92 lots Open Interest: 1644 Index 827 +3

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day) — Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1664.0-1664.5	1677.0-1678.0	2317250
Lead ($/tonne)	531.00-531.50	541.00-542.00	191425
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1030.5-1031.0	1051.0-1052.0	508725
Tin ($/tonne)	5475.0-5485.0	5340.0-5350.0	28130
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1389.5-1390.5	1409.0-1410.0	2890900
Nickel ($/tonne)	4370.0-4375.0	4420.0-4430.0	174330

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Oct	Jan	Apr	Puts Oct	Jan	Apr
ASDA	180	14	22	27½	7½	12	16
(*185½)	200	6	13	18½	19	23	27
Abbey Nat	1050	89	137½	161	42	71	91
(*1088)	1100	63½	113½	136½	66	96	115
Alld Dom	500	28½	42	54	21½	41	47
(*501½)	550	10½	22	35	54	72½	78
BAA	600	35	58½	69½	28½	46½	47
(*602½)	650	15	40½	47½	56½	75	75½
BAT Ind	550	50	70	—	21	43	—
(*575)	600	26	46	—	46½	69	—
Barclays	1200	87	147	—	59½	94	—
(*1227½)	1250	62	122½	149½	80½	119½	148
Bass	789	57½	—	—	28	—	—
(*803½)	845	33	—	—	58½	—	—
Boots	1000	54	87	112	44½	72	78
(*1004½)	1050	32	66½	89½	72	98	104
Br Airways	420	35½	58	73	21½	37	44
(*431½)	460	20½	40	54½	44½	58½	67
BP	750	53	80	101	28½	50½	65½
(*768)	800	29½	56	77	54½	75	90½
Br Steel	100	11½	15	16½	3½	9	12½
(*106)	110	6½	10½	14	8	14½	18
C&W	550	64	93	114½	26	47	56½
(*583)	600	47	69	92	48½	73	82½
CGU Plc	900	56½	98	117	41	66½	87
(*908)	950	35	73½	93½	69½	92½	113
GlaxoW	1800	125½	207½	252½	96	151½	183½
(*1810)	1900	83½	163½	204½	151	203½	234½
HSBC	1100	102½	159	186	60½	100½	132½
(*1131½)	1150	78½	135½	161½	84½	126½	158
Halifax	700	55	89½	108	29½	51½	69½
(*720½)	750	31½	65½	83½	56	77	94½
ICI	550	62	92½	108	21	41	54½
(*585)	600	35½	69	82½	43½	66	79½
Land Sec	850	71½	102½	124	17½	40	47½
(*896)	900	44	77	98	41	63	70
M&S	500	45½	60	73	16	28½	35½
(*528)	550	18	35	49	38	50½	60
Natl Pwr	500	41½	55½	69	18½	35½	42
(*516)	550	18	33	46½	45½	62½	69½
Nat West	900	79½	121½	144½	38	67½	86½
(*937½)	950	53	97	120	57½	92	110
Reed Intl	460	47	71	84	15	28	39½
(*488½)	500	25	51	64½	31½	47½	59
Reuters	472	45	—	—	18	—	—
(*493½)	530	19	—	—	49½	—	—
Ryl&Sun	500	38	59½	81	25½	39½	63½
(*506)	550	19½	38	60	55½	68	92
Safeway	300	31½	42	50½	8½	17½	24
(*323)	330	14	27	35½	21½	31½	37
Sainsbury	500	42	60½	76	16	28	38½
(*526)	550	16½	37½	53½	41	53½	64
Shell	360	21	36	46	20½	31½	38½
(*361)	390	10½	23½	33½	38½	48	54½
SmKl Bch	700	50½	87	114½	39	66	81
(*707)	750	29½	64	91½	67½	93½	107
Std Chtr	390	53½	81	92	22	44	58
(*417)	420	38½	59	78	36½	57½	74
Thames W	1059	65	100½	122	29	58	65½
(*1082½)	1114	38	71½	92½	56½	84½	91½
Vodafone	700	80½	108½	132½	35½	52	64
(*736½)	750	57½	87	109	59	77½	90
Woolwich	324	18	—	—	17½	—	—
(*326½)	354	6½	—	—	35½	—	—
Zeneca	2100	172	252½	314½	84	128	165
(*2188½)	2200	120½	203½	265½	129½	177½	213

	Series	Calls Nov	Feb	May	Puts Nov	Feb	May
BTR	137	12½	—	—	11	—	—
(*130½)	152	4½	—	—	28	—	—
Blue Circ	260	27	36½	41½	12½	16½	22½
(*276½)	280	16½	26½	31½	22	35	32½
Br Aero	360	47½	67½	75½	19	30½	36½
(*384)	390	32	54	61½	33½	46	51½
Br Telcm	750	68	91	112	34	52	62
(*773)	800	43½	66	87½	59	76½	86½
Cadbury	800	63½	91	112	41	58½	76
(*815½)	850	41	66½	88	68½	82½	101½
Carlton Cms	390	33	53½	60½	24½	34	42½
(*396)	420	20	39	47	41½	50	58½
Diageo	550	60	80	92	26	39	49½
(*580½)	600	35	56	67	50½	64½	74½
Energy Gp	800	43	—	—	—	—	—
(*840)	850	1½	—	—	10½	—	—
Gallaher	360	34½	45½	54	19½	28½	34
(*379½)	380	28½	31½	40	35	44	49½
GEC	420	35	53½	61	35	36½	41½
(*423)	460	19½	38	44	49½	59½	65
Hanson	300	36½	44	49½	8	15½	21½
(*324)	330	22	29	33½	22½	29½	35
Imp Tob	500	46	57½	68	20½	35½	38
(*519½)	550	22	33½	45½	45	62	65
Kingfshr	500	39½	56½	68½	34	43	52
(*503)	525	28½	46	—	48	56	—
Lasmo	160	13	22½	30½	18½	21½	22
(*164)	180	4½	16	23	30	33½	35½
Ladbroke	220	23	35	40	17	25	30
(*227)	240	14½	26	31½	28½	38	41
LucasVar	200	21	23½	28	12½	16½	19½
(*202½)	220	12½	15	19½	24	28½	31
P&O	650	54	87	89½	31	43	54½
(*679½)	700	30½	56½	65½	57	68½	80½
Prudentl	800	63½	104	124½	43	57½	66½
(*836½)	850	39	79½	99½	68	82½	90½
Rio Tinto	600	49	63	81	42	58	73
(*605½)	650	29½	48½	61½	72	86	103½
R-Royce	180	20½	28	33½	13½	20	23½
(*184)	200	13	20	25	25½	31½	35
Tesco	167	12½	18½	—	11½	16	—
(*167)	183	6½	12½	—	21	25½	—
Utd Assc	193	15½	21	—	14½	14	—
(*197½)	216	7	11½	—	28½	28	—

	Series	Calls Oct	Jan	May	Puts Oct	Jan	May
AB&Leic	850	50½	82½	109½	45	66	85½
(*852½)	900	30	60½	87	75	94	113

	Series	Calls Sep	Dec	Mar	Puts Sep	Dec	Mar
BG	330	28½	42	53½	1½	16½	20½
(*356)	360	8½	28½	39	12	28½	34½
BSkyB	460	13½	32	52	15½	29	37
(*462½)	500	2	21	35	42	51½	59½
Br Bio	35	5½	9½	12½	1½	5	7
(*38½)	40	3	7½	11	4	8	10
Centrica	90	5½	11½	13½	4½	9	10
(*91½)	100	2	7	9	10½	14½	15½
Dixons	550	21	51½	66	10	29½	42½
(*560)	600	3	30	43½	42½	57	69½
EMI	390	36½	62	72	8½	23½	33½
(*416)	420	19½	47	58	21½	38½	48½
Granada	800	49	87½	108½	15½	41	59½
(*832½)	850	22	63	94	36½	65½	84½
GUS	700	46	83	104½	6½	31½	48
(*739½)	750	15	56	80	34	53½	73
Lloyds TSB	650	31	74½	100	18	53	73
(*661½)	700	10½	51½	75	47½	80	100
Lonrho	224	20	—	—	½	—	—
(*242½)	256	2	—	—	14½	—	—
Norwich	390	32	54	68	6½	29	37
(*413½)	420	15½	39½	55	19½	44	52½
Orange	550	41½	84	104	17	40½	61
(*570)	600	19½	61½	83	46½	71½	86½
Railtrck	1400	57½	139	183	27½	93	117
(*1428)	1450	31½	116½	159	50½	116½	142
Scot Pwr	600	23	54½	70	13½	34½	48½
(*609½)	650	4½	32½	48	45	81½	76½
Tarmac	70	8	13	18	1	5½	8
(*77½)	80	2	9	12	5	11	13½
Tomkins	240	6½	22	31	8	13½	17½
(*240½)	360	1	13½	22½	21½	25½	29
Unilever	550	22	52	69½	9½	34½	43½
(*562)	600	3	30	47	40½	61	70½

September 4 Total: 18987 Calls: 7209 Puts: 11778

FTSE INDEX (*5156)

Strike	Calls Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Puts Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
5000	258½	376½	476½	555½	805	84	190	258	289	502
5050	222½	346	448	528	—	98½	206½	279	320	—
5100	189	316½	419½	500	751½	115	227½	300	342	545
5150	161	287½	390½	471½	—	136½	249	320½	363	—
5200	132½	258	361½	443	697½	161½	268½	341	384½	588
5250	107	228½	332½	414½	—	184	289½	362	406	—
5300	86½	202½	302½	386	643½	214	314½	363	428	632½
5350	68	180½	278½	358½	—	245	343	410	453½	—

September 4 Total: 4809 Calls: 770 Puts: 4039 *Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Sep 98	112.08	112.08	111.77	112.03	2205
Previous open interest 160026	Dec 98	112.37	112.37	111.95	112.26	43687
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Sep 98	113.13	113.37	112.57	112.72	7585
Previous open interest 29131	Dec 98	112.30	112.56	111.82	112.00	521
Five Year Gilt	Sep 98	105.26	105.26	105.26	105.21	76
Previous open interest 2466	Dec 98	105.42	105.42	105.42	105.37	76
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Sep 98	123.00	123.03	122.85	123.01	7607
Previous open interest 97385	Dec 98	109.65	109.75	109.36	109.54	17395
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Sep 98	135.28	135.28	135.22	135.24	2369
	Dec 98	135.22	135.22	135.11	135.15	3267
Three Mth Sterling	Sep 98	92.440	92.470	92.430	92.460	20067
	Dec 98	92.770	92.800	92.720	92.780	28734
Previous open interest 1171585	Mar 99	93.070	93.120	93.040	93.100	18646
Three Mth Euromark	Sep 98	96.500	96.505	96.485	96.490	33293
Previous open interest 2724004	Dec 98	96.405	96.405	96.375	96.385	72894
Three Mth Eurolira	Sep 98	95.000	95.040	95.000	95.010	11448
Previous open interest 803611	Dec 98	96.180	96.200	96.160	96.170	19113
Three Mth Euroswiss	Sep 98	98.380	98.380	98.330	98.340	5303
Previous open interest 223818	Dec 98	98.280	98.290	98.220	98.240	16312
Three Mth Euro	Sep 98	95.840	95.840	95.830	95.830	606
Previous open interest 34547	Dec 98	96.275	96.300	96.270	96.285	525
FTSE 100	Sep 98	5130.0	5209.0	5083.0	5175.0	22819
Previous open interest 219656	Dec 98	5220.0	5277.0	5173.0	5247.0	2040

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7½ Finance Hse 8
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7½ Low 4 Week fixed: 7⅝
Treasury Bills (Dis):Buy: 2 mth 7⅛; 3 mth 7⅛. Sell: 2 mth 7; 3 mth: 7.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 7½, close 4.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.54	n/a	5.52	5.51	5.41
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4-3
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $285.50-285.80 Close: $285.30-285.80 High: $285.50-286.00
Low: $284.60-285.10 AM: $285.40 PM: $285.00

Krugerrand: $288.00-290.00 (£171.00-173.00)

Platinum: $366.00 (£219.30) Silver: $4.501 (£2.985) Palladium: $283.00 (£169.55)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mid Rates for Sept 4	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2677-3.2808	3.2737-3.2769	1½-1pr	3½-3¼pr
Brussels	59.740-59.990	59.836-59.931	23-18pr	64-57pr
Copenhagen	11.030-11.074	11.045-11.059	⅝-⅜pr	¾-¼pr
Dublin	1.1530-1.1610	1.1571-1.1592	14-8pr	48-38pr
Frankfurt	2.8966-2.9075	2.9010-2.9035	1-¾pr	2¾-2½pr
Lisbon	296.79-298.04	297.29-297.51	¾-¼pr	2½-2¼pr
Madrid	245.88-246.84	246.25-246.53	67-56pr	199-180pr
Milan	2845.50-2873.0	2865.3-2867.6	64-47pr	187-164pr
Montreal	2.5570-2.5684	2.5590-2.5619	0.40-0.34pr	0.78-0.69pr
New York	1.6684-1.6740	1.6728-1.6736	0.278-0.257pr	0.81-0.78pr
Oslo	12.867-12.945	12.885-12.900	¼-½ds	¼-¾ds
Paris	9.7090-9.7470	9.7282-9.7345	3½-3¼pr	9¾-9¼pr
Stockholm	13.221-13.326	13.281-13.296	¾-¼pr	1¾-1¼pr
Tokyo	224.39-226.39	224.65-224.88	1½-1¼pr	4¼-3¾pr
Vienna	20.377-20.461	20.411-20.431	½-¼pr	¾-¼pr
Zurich	2.3780-2.3916	2.3802-2.3830	1½-1¼pr	3½-3¼pr

Premium - pr. Discount - ds.
Source: Extel

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.6946-1.6960
Austria	12.20-12.21
Belgium (Com)	35.77-35.81
Canada	1.5320-1.5330
Denmark	6.6080-6.6100
France	5.8150-5.8180
Germany	1.7337-1.7340
Hong Kong	7.7370-7.7390
Ireland	1.4426-1.4476
Italy	1713.05-1713.35
Japan	134.26-134.36
Malaysia	3.9500-3.9900
Netherlands	1.9556-1.9561
Norway	7.7010-7.7110
Portugal	177.50-177.55
Singapore	1.7430-1.7460
Spain	147.00-147.10
Sweden	7.9387-7.9437
Switzerland	1.4224-1.4234

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6726-1.6751
Australia dollar	2.8343-2.8384
Bahrain dinar	0.6225-0.6385
Brazil real*	1.9636-1.9663
China yuan	unq
Cyprus pound	0.8275-0.8485
Finland markka	8.7525-8.8965
Greece drachma	495.5-506.9
Hong Kong dollar	12.9401-12.9512
India rupee	70.25-72.05
Indonesia rupiah	unq
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5040-0.5170
Malaysia ringgit	6.6064-6.6773
New Zealand dollar	3.2943-3.3008
Pakistan rupee	81.75 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0200-6.1540
Singapore dollar	2.9143-2.9211
S Africa rand (com)	10.196-10.696
U A E dirham	6.0725-6.2095

*Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	889	Lloyds TSB	8,680
ASDA Gp	10,733	LucasVarity	3,937
Abbey Ntl	3,188	Marks Spr	5,613
Allied Dom	794	Misys	281
Allnce & Leic	734	Nat Grid	4,718
Amvescap	1,630	Nat Power	2,494
AB Foods	370	NatWst Bk	3,235
Bk of Scot	2,321	Nrwich Un	3,152
BAA	1,069	Nycmd Amr	479
Barclays	6,274	*Orange*	10,395
Bass	1,948	P & O	2,477
BAT Inds	16,591	Pearson	775
BG	4,080	PowerGen	1,648
Billiton	14,720	Prudential	7,046
Blue Circle	729	Railtrack	2,867
BOC	229	Rank Group	744
Boots	2,063	Reckitt Col	665
BAe	3,317	Reed Intl	2,931
BA	1,506	Rentokil	10,606
Brit Energy	641	Reuters	1,710
Br Land	588	Rio Tinto	3,385
BP	11,552	RMC	537
Brit Steel	1,203	Rolls Royce	3,959
BSkyB	1,188	Ryl & Sun	2,432
BT	7,146	Ryl Bk Sct	1,238
BTR	11,669	Safeway	1,381
CGU	1,361	Sainsbury	9,303
Cable Wire	3,481	Schroders	132
Cadbury	2,976	Scot & New	1,393
Carlton Cms	915	Scot Power	2,561
Centrica	2,422	Svrn Trent	156
Compass Gp	1,806	Shell Trans	38,558
Diageo	3,674	Siebe	5,354
EMI	802	Smiths Ind	790
Enterpr Oil	5,134	SmKl Bch	4,809
Gen Elec	4,021	Stagecoach	308
GKN	1,852	Std Chartd	6,122
Glaxo Well	4,086	Sun Life	247
Granada	4,132	Tesco	20,526
GUS	1,151	Thames W	516
GRE	8,788	*Tomkins*	1,872
ICI	1,403	Unilever	8,764
HSBC	8,903	Utd News	412
Halifax	2,872	Utd Utilities	336
Hays	612	Vodafone	12,454
Kingfisher	2,835	WPP	2,966
Ladbroke	2,413	Whitbread	516
Land Secs	2,540	Williams	569
LASMO	4,359	Woolwich	2,317
Legal & Gn	3,137	Zeneca	1,341

WALL STREET

	Sep 4 midday	Sep 3 close
AMP Inc	36¼	37¼
AMR Corp	50⅝	50⅜
AT & T	52⅜	51⅝
Abbott Labs	40	40⅜
Advanced Micro	14	14⅛
Aetna Life	64⅞	64¼
Ahmanson (HF)	55⅞	56¼
Air Prod & Chem	31⅞	32¼
AirTouch Comm	57	57⅜
Albertson's	51⅛	52⅜
Alcan Aluminm	22¾	21¼
Allied Signal	33⅜	33
Alum Co of Am	65⅜	64⅞
Amerada Hess	50	49⅜
AEP	43¼	44¼
Amer Express	73	77
Amer Genl Corp	62⅞	64¼
Amer Home Pr	48¼	48⅞
Amer Intl	77⅞	70⅞
Amer Online	85¾	86¼
Amer Stores	29¾	30¾
Amer Standard	34⅞	34¼
Ameritech	46⅝	45¾
Amgen	64¼	64
Amoco	48	46½
Andrew Corp	13⅛	13
Anheuser-Busch	49⅞	49⅞
Apple Computer	35¾	34¾
Archer Daniels	15	15⅜
Armco	4¼	3
Armstrng Wrld	50¼	50¼
Asarco	18⅞	18⅜
Atl Richfield	60⅞	59
Atmel Corp	7⅛	7⅛
Auto Data Pro	69¼	69⅜
Avery Dennison	48½	48⅜
Avon Products	58⅜	59¼
Baker Hughes	21	22½
Baltim Gas & El	30⅛	30½
Banc One	39⅞	41
BankAmerica	60⅞	64
Bank of NY	24⅞	25⅞
Bankers Tr Crp	65⅞	66⅞
Bausch & Lomb	40	40¼
Baxter Intl	57	56⅜
Becton Dicknsn	37⅞	40
Bell Atlantic	42¾	41½
BellSouth	66¼	65⅞
Best Foods	51½	49⅞
Black & Decker	44¼	44⅜
Block (H&R)	41¼	40⅜
Boeing	34⅛	34⅝
Boise Cascade	24¼	23⅞
Boston Scien	68¾	70¾
Bristol Myrs Sq	105⅞	106½
Browning Ferris	33¼	33⅜
Brunswick	14⅞	15
Burlington Nthn	29½	30
CMS Energy Corp	41	41¼
CSX	37¼	37¾
CBS Corp	27¼	27¼
Campbell Soup	48⅜	49⅞
Carolina Pwr	42⅜	42
Case Corp	28¼	28⅜
Caterpillar	44¼	45⅜
Central & SW	26⅜	26½
Champion Intl	32	31½
Chase Manhat	46⅜	49¼
Chevron Corp	78½	75⅞
Chrysler	48¼	48½
Chubb Corp	63⅜	65½
Cigna Corp	61⅞	61⅜
Citicorp	94½	98½
Clorox	93⅞	92⅜
Coastal Corp	28¼	27⅞
Coca Cola	61⅛	61⅞
Coca Cola Ent	25⅜	25
Colgate-Palm	70⅞	71⅞
Columbia Energy	49⅜	49⅜
ColumbiaHCA	23	23¼
Compaq Comp	29¼	29⅞
Comp Ass Int	30⅜	30¼
Conagra	26½	25⅞
Cons Edison	45½	46
Cons Nat Gas	42½	42¼
Cooper Inds	43½	41½
Corning Inc	24⅛	23⅜
C'wide Credit	36¼	36
Crestar Finl	51⅛	51½
Crown Cork	32½	31½
Daimler Bz ADR	92⅛	92⅜
Dana Corp	38¼	40
Dayton Hudson	38⅜	39⅜
Deere	33¼	34⅜
Dell Computer	109⅞	108⅜
Delta Air Lines	95⅜	95⅜
Deluxe Corp	29	28⅞
Dillard Dept St	29⅞	30⅛
Disney (Walt)	27¼	28¼
Dominion Res	40⅞	40⅛
Donelley (RR)	37⅜	37
Dover Corp	26½	26
Dow Chemical	79⅞	80
Dow Jones	48⅜	48⅜
Dresser	28⅜	27½
Duke Energy	60¾	60¼
Du Pont	57¼	56½
Eastman Chem	51⅛	50½
Eastman Kodak	82½	82
Eaton Corp	60⅞	59¼

	Sep 4 midday	Sep 3 close
Edison Int	26⅞	26½
Elect Data Sys	37¼	34⅜
Emerson Elec	54⅞	55¼
Engelhard Corp	18¼	18⅞
Enron Corp	43⅞	43⅞
Entergy	27⅜	27¼
Ethyl Corp	4¼	4⅜
Exxon	63½	63⅞
FDX Holding	49½	49⅜
FMC Corp	53¼	52¼
FPL Group	64½	63⅞
Fifth Third Banc	50⅞	51¼
Fleet Finl Grp	68¼	70⅜
Fluor Corp	38⅞	39
Ford Motor	41⅞	42½
Fort James	29½	27¼
Fortune Brands	27¼	26¼
Franklin Res	27½	30
GTE Corp	48	48⅞
Gannett	58⅜	58¼
Gap Inc Del	53¼	52⅞
Gateway 2000	47½	47
Gen Dynamics	46⅛	47¼
Gen Electric	76¼	77¼
Gen Mills	65¾	66
Gen Motors	56⅞	57⅜
Gen Reinsurance	204½	207⅞
Gen Signal	36⅞	36¼
Genuine Parts	30¾	30½
Georgia Pac	42¼	42⅜
Gillette	41⅛	40⅜
Glaxo Wellc ADR	60⅜	60¼
Goodrich (BF)	30⅜	30⅜
Goodyear Tire	46⅛	46⅞
Great Lakes	39¼	40
Halliburton	28¼	27¼
Harcourt General	47	46½
Heinz (HJ)	51½	50⅜
Hercules	28	27⅜
Hershey Foods	64¼	64½
Hewlett Packard	50¼	50
Hilton Hotels	20⅜	20¼
Home Depot	38½	38⅞
Homestake Mng	10⅞	11⅛
Honeywell	64½	65⅞
Household Intl	37⅛	37⅜
Houston Inds	28¼	28¾
Humana	15	14⅞
Ikon Office	6⅜	6⅜
Illinois Tool	47⅛	47½
Illinova	25¼	25¼
INCO	10¼	9¼
Ingersoll Rand	39⅞	39⅜
Inland Steel	18⅛	18⅜
Intel Corp	77⅞	76¼
IBM	120⅞	121¼
Intl Flav & Fr	38⅛	37½
Intl Paper	39	38⅞
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	75¼	75
Kellogg	31¼	31¼
Kerr-McGee	41⅛	40⅞
Kimberly-Clark	39¼	38¼
Kmart	12¼	13
Knight-Ridder	47⅜	47⅛
Lilly (Eli)	71¼	72⅜
Limited Inc	23¼	23⅛
Lincoln Nat	85½	86¼
Litton	50⅛	50¼
Liz Claiborne	28¼	28⅞
Lockheed Martin	92⅛	93
Louisiana Pac	19⅞	19⅛
Lucent Tech	75¼	77¼
MCI Comm	57½	58¼
Manpower Inc	21	23⅜
Marketspan Cp	26¼	26½
Marriott Int A	26	26½
Marsh & McLnn	49	49⅜
Masco Corp	23	23⅛
May Dept St	56½	57⅜
Maytag Corp	44⅜	44½
McDonalds	57¼	57⅞
McGraw Hill	79½	78⅜
Mead Corp	27¼	27⅛
MediaOne Group	43¼	44⅛
Meditrust Corp	15	15¼
Medtronic	58⅞	56¼
Mellon Bk	52⅜	53½
Merck Inc	122¼	123½
Merrill Lynch	63⅛	63⅜
Microsoft	99⅜	99¼
Minnesota Mine	70¼	70⅞
Mirage Resorts	16	16¼
Mobil Corp	73¼	71½
Monsanto	52½	52⅛
Morgan (JP)	86⅛	88
Motorola Inc	40⅛	39¼
Mylan Labs	27¼	27
Natl Semi	9½	9½
Natl Service Ind	35⅛	34⅜
Navistar Int	23½	23¼
NY Times A	28¼	28⅛
Newmont Mng	18¼	17¼
Nike B	34⅛	33¼
NL Industries	21⅛	21⅛
Nordstrom	26⅞	27¼
Norfolk Sthrn	28¼	28
Nthn State Pwr	27⅛	26⅞
Norwest Corp	29⅛	30⅛
Occidental Pet	18⅛	18⅞
Office Depot	24¼	24

	Sep 4 midday	Sep 3 close
Oracle	19⅞	19⅛
Oryx Energy Co	11⅛	11¼
Owens Corning	33⅞	33¼
PPG Industries	53⅜	52⅞
PMI Group	55⅞	56
PNC Bank	43¼	44¼
PP&L Res	23¼	23⅛
Pacificorp	21⅞	22¼
PaineWebber	32⅜	34⅛
Pall Corp	20⅞	21⅛
Parker Hannifin	29	29⅞
Peco Energy	31½	31¼
Penney (JC)	51⅛	52⅛
Pennzoil	37½	37½
Pepsico	31¼	30¾
Pfizer	94	99⅞
Pharm & Upjhn	45⅞	44⅞
Phelps Dodge	49¼	48
Philip Morris	43¼	42⅞
Phillips Pet	43⅛	43
Pitney Bowes	48¼	48¼
Polaroid	28¼	28⅞
Procter & Gmbl	77¼	76¼
Providian	59⅞	60⅞
Pub Serv E & G	35⅛	36¼
Quaker Oats	53¼	53¼
Ralston Purina	27⅜	27¼
Raychem Corp	28⅜	29⅜
Raytheon B	41¼	41⅛
Reebok Intl	15½	15⅜
Reliastar Fin	38	39⅞
Reynolds Metals	51¼	50⅛
Rockwell Intl	38⅛	38⅛
Rohm & Haas	29⅞	29⅛
Royal Dutch	48¼	45¼
Rubbermaid	27¼	27⅜
SBC Comms	37⅜	37
Safeco Corp	41⅛	41⅛
St Paul's Cos	29⅞	29⅜
Sara Lee Corp	49½	49⅜
Schering Plough	92¼	93¼
Schlumberger	46⅛	47¼
Seagram	31½	31¼
Sears Roebuck	47⅜	47⅜
Shell Trans	36¼	34¼
Sherwin Wlms	25¼	25⅜
Silicon Graphics	10⅛	10
Snap-On-Tools	29¼	28¼
Southern Co	26½	26⅛
Southtrust	32¼	33¼
Sprint Corp	64¾	64⅞
Stanley Works	38⅛	38¼
Starwood H & R	33¼	34¼
Sun Company	32¼	30¼
Sun Microsys	41½	40⅜
Suntrust	55½	56⅜
Supervalu	20⅜	21⅛
Synovus Fin	17⅞	18¼
Sysco Corp	21½	21¼
TRW Inc	45½	45
TJX Hldgs	13¼	13½
Tandy Corp	52⅜	52
Temple Inland	44¼	44⅛
Tenet Healthcare	27⅛	27⅛
Tenneco	33	33⅛
Texaco	57⅛	57⅞
Texas Inst	50½	50¼
Texas Utilities	41½	41⅞
Textron	62	62½
Thermo Elect	15	15½
Time Warner	84¼	85
Times-Mirror A	56⅛	56½
Timken	18⅛	17¼
Torchmark	36¼	36¼
Toys R Us	18½	18½
Transamerica	101¼	102⅞
Travelers	38½	40⅞
Tribune	61⅞	60¼
Tyco Int	52¼	54⅛
UST Inc	27⅛	27
US Bancorp	39⅛	38⅛
UAL	58¼	58¼
Unitrin	58⅜	57¼
US Inds	14¼	14½
US West	49⅜	49⅜
USAirways Group	50¼	50⅞
USX Marathon	28⅜	27⅞
Unicom	34¼	34¼
Unilever NV	67⅜	66¼
Union Camp	36⅛	36½
Union Carbide	40	39½
Union Pacific	39⅛	39⅞
Unisys Corp	19⅜	19¼
United Tech	75¼	75¼
Unocal Corp	34⅛	33
VF Corp	39⅛	39
Venator Group	9	9¼
Walgreen	41⅛	41¼
Wal-Mart Stores	58⅞	60¼
Warner-Lambert	68½	70
Wells Fargo	292⅞	300⅛
Weyerhaeuser	37⅛	37¼
Whirlpool	47⅜	47
Whitman	17⅛	17
Winn Dixie	38	38¼
Witco Corp	21¼	21¼
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	73⅞	74¼
Xerox	92⅞	90⅛
Xilinx Inc	32¼	31¼

THE TIMES TODAY SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5 1998

NEWS

Hague fights for first-past-the-post

■ The Conservative Party is preparing to launch a campaign to save the present voting system amid fears that change could threaten its chances of ever returning to power.

William Hague will put the issue at the top of his party's priorities at a two-day Shadow Cabinet summit next week and also aims to mobilise business, the press and public behind the fight to keep the first-past-the-post system Pages 1, 8

Crash jet had cockpit wiring alert

■ The Swissair airliner in which 229 people died had been the subject of fears over potentially faulty wiring, it emerged as investigators began the huge task of finding what made the plane crash into the the ocean Page 1

Clinton apologises

President Clinton said for the first time that he was "sorry" for his *sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky* Page 1

Beckham cash penalty

Sharing a room with David Beckham can prove expensive, his World Cup colleague Gary Neville discovered Page 1

Blair pressure

Tony Blair faced demands to reduce the value of the pound after the closure of an electronics plant *in his constituency* Page 2

Fraud mastermind

The mastermind of one of Britain's biggest bank scams was caught days before he was to flee to the *Philippines* Page 3

Lonely hearts rapist

A man who raped a student while on bail for raping a trainee solicitor he met through a lonely hearts *advertisement was given two life sentences* Page 5

The tops at GCSE

St Paul's Girls' School, London, topped *The Times* GCSE table for a third successive year Page 7

Surgery by phone

A brain surgeon helped to save a climber's life by telephoning instructions on drilling holes in *the man's skull to a colleague in* an operating theatre 100 miles away Page 7

Epic enraged nations

The producer of an epic film about the founder of Pakistan said he was almost destroyed financially and physically by hostility to the project Page 9

The talk of Australia

Australia can talk of little else but the chip-shop owner turned politician: Pauline Hanson Page 12

Russian caution

The Russian Parliament backed away from a showdown with President Yeltsin Page 16

Laughing jurors bring trial to halt

■ A judge halted a trial after the jury collapsed in giggles on hearing that the accused had broken into a police station and pretended to be an inspector, greeting a real officer with the words: "Evening all." Simon Davey, 29, had gone to the police station to report himself for being unable to pay a taxi fare Page 3

AFP/VINCE BUCCI



The actress Jamie Lee Curtis is delighted after being honoured with a star on the Walk of Fame in Hollywood. Her mother, the actress Janet Leigh, left, and her father, the actor Tony Curtis, also have stars on the famed walk along Hollywood Boulevard

NEWS FEATURES

Tribal challenge: A Native American tribe is about to begin hunting for whales with ancient harpoons, modern rifles and the backing of the US Government — *but a maritime showdown is looming* Page 10

Rewriting royalty: *In its drive to give the Queen a more customer-friendly image,* Buckingham Palace has turned its cautiously reformist attention to the Court Circular Page 11

End of the road? As road protesters beneath Birmingham's Northern Relief Road dig in for a lengthy stand-off with bailiffs, many believe it *will be the last of the great games of underground hide-and-seek* Page 17

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: The Starr investigation may not demean Mr Clinton the man: he has done that himself. But it does demean Mr Clinton the President Page 18

Ben Macintyre France has a *richer variety of gongs than any other country:* there are medals for farmers and sailors, teachers and mothers, towns and cities Page 18

John Adams: So often we are told that its safer to fly than to drive ... But this myth ... rests on *simple statistics poorly understood* Page 18

LETTERS

News at Ten debate: spirit of the millennium: Snowdon: modern manners Page 19

OBITUARIES

William Simpson, army bandmaster; **June Parker,** writer; **The Right Rev Frank Cocks,** RAF padre Page 21

OPINION

Chips with vinegar: *If any confirmation were needed that job losses would be the Government's most potent political headache,* the closure of Fujitsu's plant in Tony Blair's constituency is a pointed reminder Page 19

New term, new battle: The Government's proposal to test four and five year olds provoked howls of fury from teaching unions and self-styled education "experts" Page 19

BUSINESS

Eaten away: Fortnum & Mason said profits had almost halved because of a shortage of tourists from the Far East Page 23

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 48.3 to close at 5167.0. *Sterling fell from 104.4 to* 104.3 Page 26

WEEKEND MONEY

Investors run for cover; crunch-time at Schroder; take a punt with your pension Pages 47-56

SPORT

Football: The European championship campaign begins with injury doubts over Tony Adams and *Paul Merson* Page 29

Tennis: A four-set win *took Tim Henman into the* third round of the US Open Page 30

Cricket: Leicestershire took over at the top of the Britannic Assurance county championship Page 38

GO

Audi's answer to baby-boom boredom Page 43

SECTIONS

the times magazine

Ben Elton: The right-on motormouth who really wnted to be Noël Coward Page 18

Ruling the waves: The cruise ship that proves size does matter Page 26

Monet the rebel: The paintings that shocked the world Page 34

metro

The big interview: Kelly Macdonald refuses to be typecast Page 6

Books: A traditional, well-structured book is a passion-killer for Andrew Miller Page 16

Art: Dominic Lutyens is stuck fast on an exhibition called Speed Page 24

WEEKEND

Just do it: Richard Branson's philosophy on life and women Page 1

Eternal optimist: No political scoop is as exciting as watching your own racehorse win, says *Robin Oakley* Page 3

Happy ending: A Mary Shelley story that was lost for 170 years Page 9

Vision

Seven-day listing of radio and 40 TV channels

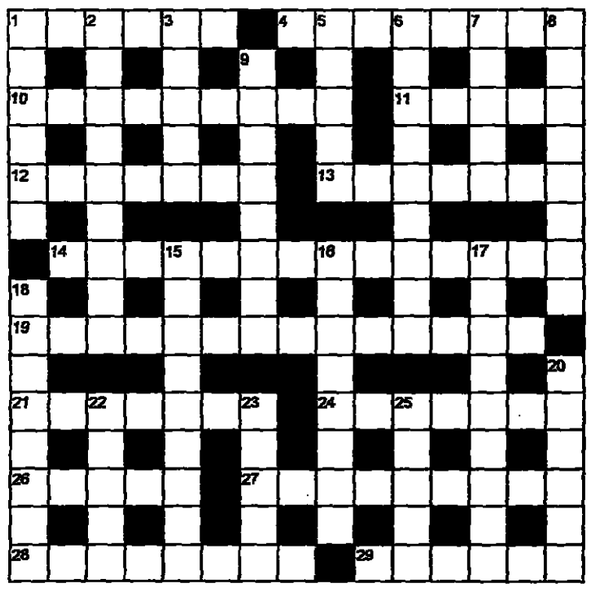
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Beat new-term blues with our cool school test!

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,889

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .....



ACROSS

1 One eye, say, kept on new baby's *nightmares* (6).
4 Dance craze used Coward's work (3,5).
10 Naturally, it powers a couple of rooms (5,4).
11 *Laws of game not so short* (5).
12 Change sides in discussion group to be so influential (7).
13 Port is offered by British to the left (7).
14 Objected to entering royal address — it's a matter of principle (4-10).
19 Idle pupil's view may be summarily rejected (3,2,3,6).
21 Vagrant has to carry one set of papers (7).
24 One who painted less well? Exactly! (7).
26 Direct flight to European capital (5).
27 No slouch hat? (9).
28 Assuming clothes may be spread on the bed (8).
29 Theologian has chapter at end of work to embellish (6).

DOWN

1 This month, one's in demand (6).
2 Journalist's charge about graduates losing head (9).
3 Aristocrat with lines in him showing up? (5).
5 Something nobody's prepared to say (2,3).
6 Stopped in Bedford after accident (9).
7 Lie in tub? Not I — I ran it, perhaps (5).
8 Anxious struggles — not with wife, but with son (8).
9 Almost what one hopes to hear *from dowser?* (4-4).
15 As pet, she's fun if played with (9).
16 Eats fish, with disagreeable consequences (8).
17 Free from old partner — divorce *centre sent up a note* (9).
18 Made up ground (8).
20 Run in the flesh? (6).
22 Pigs said to get thorough wash (5).
23 Use a blade and *cut down tree* (5).
25 Keep foot away from bomb hole, in case (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20883

H	E	A	D	O	N	■	B	I	R	D	S	E	Y	E
■	X	E	■	■	E	■	N	■	E	■	■	N	■	L
S	O	A	P	■	G	E	T	T	H	E	■	B	I	R	D
■	T	■	L	■	H	■	■	H	■	P	■	G	■	E
W	I	S	E	N	T	■	B	E	S	S	E	M	E	R
■	C	■	T	■	I	■	C	■	P	■	A	■	S	■
C	A	F	E	T	E	R	I	A	■	A	I	T	C	H
U	■	R	■	E	■	R	■	C	■	I	■	I	■	■
P	I	E	C	E	■	B	U	T	T	E	R	C	U	P
I	■	E	■	B	■	E	■	A	■	T	■	■	■	■
D	E	V	O	U	T	L	Y	■	P	O	M	P	O	M
S	■	E	■	C	■	L	■	S	■	P	■	P	■	■
B	I	R	T	H	R	I	G	H	T	■	A	X	I	S
O	■	S	■	E	■	■	O	■	E	■	R	■	A	■
W	R	E	S	T	L	I	N	G	■	R	O	T	U	N	D

Solution to Puzzle No 20888

A	J	A	R	■	G	R	E	E	N	L	I	G	H	T
R	■	G	■	■	U	■	A	■	I	■	A	■	A	■
T	W	I	G	■	I	M	P	R	O	V	I	S	E	R
E	■	T	■	D	■	B	■	T	■	E	■	S	■	G
F	L	A	R	E	P	A	T	H	■	R	E	A	D	E
A	■	T	■	T	■	W	■	Y	■	G	■	T	■	■
C	L	O	T	H	S	H	O	R	S	E	■	■	■	■
T	■	R	■	A	■	R	■	T	■	L	■	S	■	■
■	■	N	O	N	C	O	M	B	A	T	A	N	T	■
M	■	H	■	N	■	K	■	■	B	■	T	■	I	■
O	Z	O	N	E	■	C	I	V	I	L	L	I	S	T
R	■	N	■	M	■	L	■	I	■	E	■	T	■	C
A	B	O	V	E	B	O	A	R	D	■	L	U	S	H
S	■	U	■	N	■	T	■	■	D	■	E	■	■	■
S	C	R	A	T	C	H	O	U	T	■	F	E	U	D

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *J. Roe, Cardiganshire; G. Klaiber, Burgiwallis, Doncaster; R.W. Halliwell, Blackrod, Bolton; J.D. Burns, Harrogate; B. Dodge, Bridgend, Mid-Glamorgan.*

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** rain over East Anglia, northern England, north Wales and N Ireland will *move northwards as brighter weather* comes in from south. Then sunshine and showers, some heavy, in most areas. SW areas dry later. W Scotland will have some sunshine at first but the east and north will *be misty and drizzly. Steadier rain in* southern Scotland will spread north, some of it heavy; the south will brighten later, leaving a few showers.

Tonight, S Scotland dry with clear spells and local mist patches; *rest of Scotland* cloudy with rain or drizzle. N Ireland will have rain later. SW England and South Wales will become cloudy with rain. Rest of England and Wales dry with clearer spells *in the north and a few local mist patches.*

☐ **London, SE, Cent S, E England, E Anglia, Midlands:** sunny spells but scattered *sharp showers will develop.* Mod SW winds, locally fresh. Max 21C (70F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** sunny spells and sharp showers; drier later. Mod to fresh SW winds. Max 20C (68F).

☐ **N Wales, NW, Cent N, NE England, Lakes, IoM:** early rain, then brief sunny breaks, occasional showers. Light variable winds becoming mod SW. Max 20C (68F).

☐ **Borders, SW Scotland, Glasgow:** *rain easing then brief sunny spells and a few* showers. Light to moderate SE winds veering SW. Max 20C (68F).

☐ **Edinburgh & Dundee, Cent Highlands:** *overcast with rain but this will ease* later. Mod E to SE winds. Max 19C (66F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** overcast with patchy mist and drizzle. Steadier rain later. Mod E to SE winds. *Max 18C (64F).*

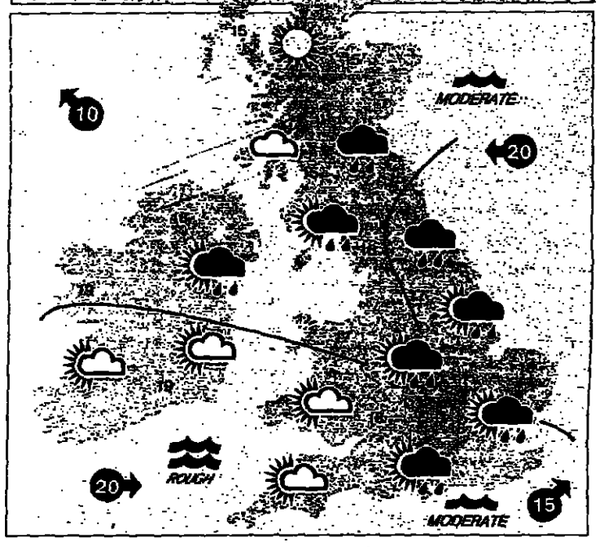
☐ **Argyll, NW Scotland:** early sunshine; clouding over with rain spreading northwards. Mod E winds. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **N Ireland:** mostly cloudy, brief brighter breaks, *occasional showers, locally heavy.* Light, variable winds. Max 20C (68F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** showers then fine. Rain in evening. West wind, *later southerly* fresh. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **Outlook:** rain tomorrow although the east may stay dry and bright. Heavy downpours and strong winds in SW England and Wales later. *Windy and* showery on Monday.

NOON TODAY



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.02	14	57	d	Lerwick	-	0.27	12	54	r
Anglesey	4.1	-	19	66	b	Leuchars	-	0.03	16	61	c
Aspatria	6.0	-	20	68	b	Littlehmptn	0.5	-	18	64	du
Aviemore	-	0.02	14	57	d	London	3.7	-	21	70	b
Belfast	1.8	-	17	63	c	Lowestoft	3.7	-	19	66	s
Birmingham	5.6	-	19	66	b	Manchester	6.5	-	20	68	s
Bognor R	1.8	0.01	20	68	c	Margate	4.2	0.01	21	70	s
Bournem'th	1.3	0.04	18	64	r	Minehead	X				
Bristol	2.0	0.01	19	66	c	Morecambe	6.9	-	21	70	s
Buxton	5.2	-	18	64	s	Newcastle	4.6	0.01	19	66	b
Cardiff	X	0.23	17	63	r	Newquay	3.9	0.08	19	66	r
Clacton	X	0.46	18	64	b	Norwich	3.5	-	20	68	b
Cleethorpes	3.8	-	19	66	b	Oxford	1.6	-	19	66	fg
Colwyn Bay	2.2	0.01	19	66	c	Penzance	5.0	0.37	21	70	r
Cromer	4.1	-	19	66	b	Poole	0.7	0.04	19	66	r
Dunbar	0.4	0.01	15	59	c	Prestatyn	X				
Eastbourne	X					Ross on Wye	2.1	0.04	18	64	r
Edinburgh	1.2	0.01	17	63	s	Salcombe	2.1	0.76	18	64	r
Eskdalemuir	2.4	0.01	17	63	b	Saunton Snd	3.1	0.26	16	61	r
Exmouth	2.1	0.48	17	63	r	Scarboro'	3.1	-	16	61	s
Falmouth	X					Shrewsbury	4.3	-	19	66	fg
Fishguard	2.4	0.21	16	61	r	Skegness	6.3	-	19	66	s
Folkestone	2.5	0.01	19	66	c	Southend	3.5	-	21	70	b
Glasgow	1.8	0.01	16	61	b	Southport	X	-	20	68	b
Guernsey	0.5	0.21	18	64	r	Southsea	2.7	0.01	19	66	r
Hastings	2.6	0.03	17	63	sh	Stornoway	7.0	-	15	59	b
Hayling I.	0.8	0.01	19	66	sh	Swanage	0.9	0.01	18	64	sh
Herne Bay	4.8	-	22	72	b	Teignmouth	1.5	0.63	18	64	r
Hove	3.8	X	X	X	b	Tenby	2.6	0.24	17	63	r
Hunstanton	1.6	-	20	68	b	Tiree	1.3	-	16	61	b
Isle of Man	3.0	-	17	63	b	Torquay	0.8	0.44	18	64	r
Isle-of-Wight	1.1	0.01	18	64	d	Tynemouth	X				
Jersey	2.2	0.14	17	63	r	Weston s Mare	2.0	0.11	17	63	r
Kinloss	-	0.01	14	57	d	Weymouth	2.0	0.28	17	63	r
Leeds	4.5	-	21	70	b						

ABROAD

Ajaccio	29	84	s	Cologne	18	64	r	Madrid	28	82	s
Alicante	30	86	s	Corfu	29	84	s	Majorca	31	88	f
Amsterdam	20	68	r	Dublin	18	64	f	Malaga	33	91	s
Athens	30	86	s	Dubrovnik	26	79	s	Malta	29	84	s
Bahrain	38	100	s	Faro	33	73	s	Melbourne	16	61	f
Bangkok	32	90	f	Florence	31	88	c	Mexico C	X		
Barbados	31	88	f	Frankfurt	19	66	r	Miami	34	93	s
Barcelona	28	82	f	Funchal	26	79	s	Milan	25	77	c
Beijing	28	79	c	Geneva	24	75	s	Montreal	19	66	s
Beirut	29	84	s	Gibraltar	29	84	s	Moscow	11	52	f
Belgrade	27	81	s	Helsinki	17	63	s	Munich	22	72	c
Berlin	20	68	s	Hong K	30	86	c	Nairobi	25	77	f
Bermuda	30	86	s	Innsbruck	20	68	r	Naples	31	88	f
Biarritz	25	77	f	Istanbul	25	77	f	N Delhi	34	93	s
Borde'x	24	75	f	Jeddah	38	100	s	N York	25	77	f
Brussels	21	70	f	Jo'burg	23	73	s	Nice	27	81	s
Budapst	14	57	r	L Palmas	26	79	s	Oslo	16	61	s
B Aires	16	61	s	Lisbon	24	75	f	Paris	16	61	r
Cairo	32	90	c	Locarno	19	66	f	Perth	12	54	c
Cape Tn	16	61	c	L Angels	28	82	r	Prague	17	63	c
Chicago	23	73	s	Luxembg	18	64	c	Reykjavik	11	52	d
Ch'church	5	41	X	Luxor	42	108	s	Rhodes	30	86	s
Cologne	18	64	r	Madrid	28	82	s	Rome	28	82	f
Majorca	31	88	f	Salzburg	24	75	f
Malaga	33	91	s	S Paulo	X		
Malta	29	84	s	S Fr'sco	18	64	s
Melb'rne	16	61	f	Santiago	15	59	s
Mexico C	X			Seoul	29	84	s
Miami	34	93	s	Sing'por	25	77	t
Milan	25	77	c	St'kholm	18	64	s
Montreal	19	66	s	Strasb'rg	21	70	s
Moscow	11	52	f	Sydney	21	70	f
Munich	22	72	c	Tangier	25	77	f
Nairobi	25	77	f	Tel Aviv	X		
Naples	31	88	f	Tenerife	28	82	s
N Delhi	34	93	s	Tokyo	27	81	c
N York	25	77	f	Toronto	21	70	c
Nice	27	81	s	Tunis	32	90	f
Oslo	16	61	s	Valencia	30	86	s
Paris	16	61	r	Vanc'ver	22	72	s
Perth	12	54	c	Venice	27	81	f
Prague	17	63	c	Vienna	14	57	c
Reykjavik	11	52	d	Warsaw	17	63	f
Rhodes	30	86	s	Wash'ton	28	82	f
Rio de J	31	88	s	Wel'ngton	13	55	X
Riyadh	43	109	s	Zurich	19	66	f

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday. X = not available

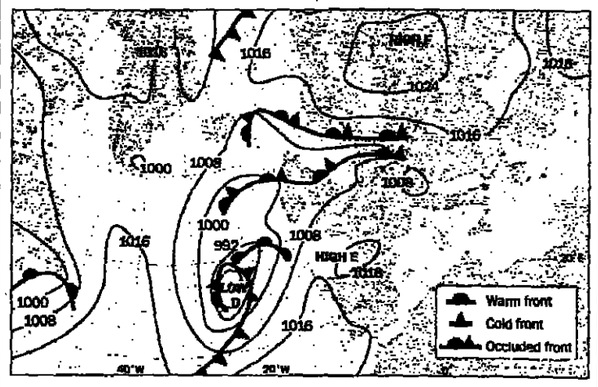
HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	-	-	12:34	4.2
Avonmouth	6:03	12.7	18:27	13.4
Belfast	9:56	3.3	22:11	3.5
Cardiff	5:49	11.8	18:13	12.4
Devonport	4:37	5.2	16:55	5.5
Dover	9:57	6.5	22:14	6.6
Dublin	10:42	3.8	22:48	4.1
Falmouth	4:08	5.0	16:28	5.3
Greenock	11:36	3.2	-	-
Harwich	10:48	3.6	23:17	4.0
Holyhead	9:22	5.3	21:34	5.7
Hull (Albert Dk)	5:07	8.2	17:41	8.3
Ilfracombe	4:51	6.7	17:13	6.2
King's Lynn	5:11	6.4	17:46	6.4
Leith	1:19	5.3	13:48	5.5
Liverpool	10:12	9.0	22:31	9.5
London Bridge	0:30	6.6	12:52	6.8
Lowestoft	8:13	2.5	20:56	2.4
Margate	10:53	4.7	23:26	4.8
Milford Haven	5:04	6.5	17:25	6.9
Newquay	3:57	6.5	16:18	6.9
Oban	4:52	3.6	17:09	4.0
Penzance	3:27	5.2	15:47	5.5
Portland	5:54	1.8	18:10	2.1
Portsmouth	10:23	4.6	22:31	4.8
Shoreham	10:10	6.1	22:25	6.2
Southampton	9:44	4.5	21:59	4.6
Swansea	5:20	9.0	17:40	9.5
Tees	2:27	5.3	14:59	5.3
Walton-On-Naze	10:41	4.0	23:09	4.2

All times BST. Highs in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Walmall, Notts, 22C (72F); lowest day max: Baltasound, Shetland, 12C (54F); highest rainfall: Seaombe, Devon, and Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, 0.78in; highest sunshine: Stornoway, Hebrides, 7.0hr.



Changes to the chart from noon: complex low D will run northeast and deepen. High F will remain stationary and build. High E will drift east while declining

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The rash slaughter of thousands of unborn piglets

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ROBIN OAKLEY



Why race horses are more fun than politicians

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The Queen tut-tutts over faulty washing machines

page 3

THE TIMES

WEEKEND

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5 1998

DES JENSON

Britain's best-loved businessman tells **Noreen Taylor** about his philosophy on life and women



At home in his mansion in Holland Park, West London, Richard Branson is bewildered to learn that people suspect there must be a dark side to his character. "I enjoy life. I enjoy people," he says

He doesn't read, he just does

Richard Branson stands in the middle of the new Virgin fashion department in Selfridges, the London store, with a mobile phone in one hand and a scrap of paper in the other. "We're out of all the size 39s," he tells an employee at the other end of the line. "And all the gilets have gone. What's a gilet, by the way?" He pauses to listen. "A Puffa jacket, right. So we need to stock up on more, don't we?"

Ignoring the stares of curious shoppers, he continues into the telephone: "You see, when you're starting a new company, first impressions are so important, don't you think?"

Clearly, Mr Branson's questions are rhetorical. But he never raises his voice and he is not in the least bit sarcastic. In fact, he betrays the kind of nervousness about the gilets and the shoes that one might expect from some freshly promoted store buyer.

You can't help thinking, is this an act? Here is Mr Billionaire, the legendary Mr Can-Do, who started off with a magazine called *Student* and ended up with a business empire embracing airlines, railways, high-street stores, hotels, banking, soft drinks, records, cinemas and computer software.

Yet he is running around Selfridges talking earnestly to the store assistants. What do they think of the clothes? How are they selling? Could it be done better? All the time, he scribbles their remarks down on a bit of paper. In some ways, Mr Branson is easy to understand because his rationale for all he does is so simple and straightforward. Then again, given the complexity of his operations and the sophistication that must be involved in such enterprises, we know he cannot be that uncomplicated. Can he?

The problem is that he makes it very difficult to see through that unpretentious façade into his canny mind. "Where is Selfridges?" he asks the taxi driver while searching for money in his jeans pocket. "Maybe we should hop on the Tube. I've only got dollars with me."

Those dollars quickly disappear when we reach Oxford Street where Mr Branson is surrounded by beggars. "You can have these," he tells a child. "Just take them to an exchange shop and they'll give you English money."

It is not an act. You can tell that the gesture is a habit.

Mr Branson's business life seems like an open book. The wonder boy learnt early on the importance of publicity, that time spent with feature writers on their long, in-depth interviews made him seem more accessible and therefore more popular. But his private life, especially the

Continued on page 2

SHOPPING 4-5 | FOOD&DRINK 6-7 | HOME LIFE 8 | GARDENING 10-12 | PROPERTY 13-15 | COUNTRY LIFE 18 | TRAVEL 23-31 | GAMES 35,36

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Joan Branson once described her husband's weaknesses as beautiful women and sticky puddings



PA

Branson carries Liza Minnelli into a party in New York. "Of course I adore women," he says, "especially beautiful ones"



Richard and his sister Lindy with their parents, Edward and Eve Branson

RICHARD YOUNG





DENNIS MORRIS

Richard Branson with his wife Joan, above, and children Holly, 16, and Sam, 13; and enjoying a barbecue, left. "Joan has kept my feet on the ground. When I returned from Russia after meeting Gorbachev, she told me there were nappies to be changed"

Continued from page 1

dynamics of his relationship with his wife, Joan, have always remained off-limits. He will talk about his parents, who rank among his closest friends, more readily, but ask him about Joan, his partner for more than 20 years, and the shutters come down.

Then imagine the surprise when Mrs Branson and the children meet up with him in Selfridges. We spot them emerging through the crowds, waving and weighed down with Marks & Spencer shopping bags. Their children, Holly, 16, and Sam, 13, are blonde good-lookers.

The brief meeting between Richard and Joan is fascinating, explaining so much more than any of the obscure sentences he uses to describe the relationship. She is golden-skinned, with tossed blonde hair, but her tan could have come from Ibiza rather than their private Caribbean paradise, Necker, where they spent the summer months. The anonymous clothes reveal little. Only the exquisite diamonds on her fingers betray serious money. Her accent remains robust Glaswegian, a clue to the background Mr Branson describes merely as working-class. Their children sound like their father: middle-class and confident.

"We've been to Marks and Spencers," she says unnecessarily. "Hopeless," she tells him. "Ask an assistant for something and they look into the middle distance and tell you 'over there'."

She asks Richard, "You had yer lunch?" while he tries on jackets from his new Virgin line. "That jacket's too tight," she tells him, as he leans over to plant a kiss on Sam's nose. "Try a bigger size. And don't buy any of those blue shirts. They've already sent you a box."

She helps him into the bigger size and runs her hands over his back to make sure it fits. "Can you take these bags back to the house?" she asks. "Sure," he says.

"Oh, great," she laughs, all winks and mischief, making a little fist of triumph. "The children are going to boarding schools so we've been out buying what they'll need," she tells me. I murmur something about the need to sew on name tags. "Och no," she says. "I'll delegate that to my daily."

That, and the diamonds, are the only clues that this woman inhabits an extraordinary world of riches, celebrity, private planes and islands. As she leaves to continue shopping in Oxford Street, she says fondly: "Ah'll see you at home."

Home is a mansion in Holland Park, one of London's most expensive areas. There are, in fact, three mansions, the sort of residence which normally houses an embassy. Our interview is conducted in one which resembles a rather smart private hotel. Silver-framed photographs of Joan and the children in Necker dominate the reception room. It is homely, cosy, the staff sound relaxed and laughter rings from various rooms.

Branson's headquarters are a recognisable descendant of the old days of *Student* magazine where work and ideas were conducted from bean bags and everyone was addressed as "man". The Sixties hippie ethos still prevails. When I arrived a happy young woman, who looked as if she was hosting a party, said: "If you want to go on up, Richard will see you now." Ten minutes into the interview, I was so glad he had taken me with him to Selfridges. He gives lousy interviews. Nervous, pedantic, swinging round continually in his chair, swinging away from questions too close for his comfort, he ums and ahs and squirms whenever he senses he is being coaxed to reveal anything too personal.

> 'If it all fell apart, I'd pack up the family and go off round the world'

Ironically, one almost begins to wish for a tycoon with the shadows and complications of a Goldsmith, Maxwell or Rowland, because this man is all light and no shade. No drama. He is happy. His staff adore him.

My only awkward moment was asking about the two American court cases when he was accused of sexually harassing his staff, "One case has been thrown out of court and the other is about to be," he said. "I'd never do anything disrespectful to my staff. But the States is filled with ambulance-chasing lawyers, so . . ."

Instantly, one feels guilty for having introduced such a grubby subject and one apologises. He has that effect on people. His hesitant, quavering voice taps into protective instincts and I wonder how many colleagues and business associates have felt that way about him. Joan mothers him and perhaps they do, too.

I ask him why, at 48, he has written his autobiography, *Losing My Virginity*, which will be serialised in *The Times* next week. He says: "It's because I wanted to record the most exciting years, the years of struggle, so young people might be inspired. I want them to follow their dreams, to believe that everything is possible.

"Most entrepreneurs are so busy struggling that they don't have time to record their efforts until they are too old. And with my rather foolish adventures each year, I thought it time I got it down on paper."

He is referring, of course, to his daredevil activities, such as his hot-air ballooning. Trophies pronouncing him first to cross the Atlantic sit on mantelpieces, on tables, next to those sun-kissed family holidays in Necker.

He almost suggests a reason for risking his life: "Compared to the struggling years, the past five years have gone so successfully that they've almost been an anti-climax."

I kept insisting that, surely, there were times in his life where the nights were sleepless, when the famous can-do confidence gave way to doubts. After more leg-crossing, chair-swinging and examining of hands, he said: "Sleepless nights are a waste of energy. I tell myself that if I've given everything, whether it's crossing the Pacific in a hot-air balloon or a business problem, then as long as I've worked night and day, I can sleep. The next day I begin building." I tell him that he reminds me of a sketch in a film, starring Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland, where they decide, against the odds, to produce a musical for their school concert. The message: everything is possible if you are enthusiastic and determined.

He seems genuinely bewildered by my insistence that there has to be something darker behind the energy and the endless ambition, the unfulfilled appetite for yet more success. "I enjoy life. I enjoy people. I mean, if everything fell apart, then I'd just pack up the family and go off round the world."

From his autobiography, the only suffering he allows us to glimpse occurs at the end of his first marriage to Kristen Tomassi, who remains a friend: "Our children are very close, and she's helping to decorate one of our hotels."

He says: "Joan ended the pain I felt when Kristen left. A friend of mine had suffered a similar trauma. His wife had fallen in love with another man. I tried to help him, told him of how I had found someone else. He didn't listen and committed suicide.

"You see, I'm enormously lucky with Joan. We'd both been married before. She's six years older than me and comes from this down-to-earth, working-class, Glasgow background. Our children come before everything. She's the one who has kept my feet on the ground. When I returned from Russia after meeting Gorbachev, she told me there were nappies to be changed."

Has Joan had to evolve from anonymous girlfriend to celebrity wife? "Not really. She's steered clear of the press. We only socialise with friends, so she hasn't had to adapt to people she would be uncomfortable with. In my eyes she has matured beautifully. She and the children had opinions about the clothes line just launched, and Holly has been modelling Virgin clothes for next month's *Cosmopolitan*."

There is, however, a worldly side to Joan, who once described her husband's weaknesses as beautiful women and sticky puddings. I ask if we can talk about this. "Not really." More wriggling, but despite the discomfort he does mention his reluctance to talk about his interest in women. "Let's say that if you weren't a journalist I'd explain.

"Of course I adore women, especially beautiful ones. But Joan's a realist, which is one of the reasons why our marriage is so successful."

Of their children, he says there are no corporate inheritance plans. "I want my children to have the freedom to explore their own worlds. Holly wants to be a doctor specialising in paediatrics. She's got two science A grades in her GCSEs, which is a terrific start. Sam is too young for those decisions.

"But I don't want them to be burdened with the Virgin inheritance. There are many good and talented people in place, able to take over."

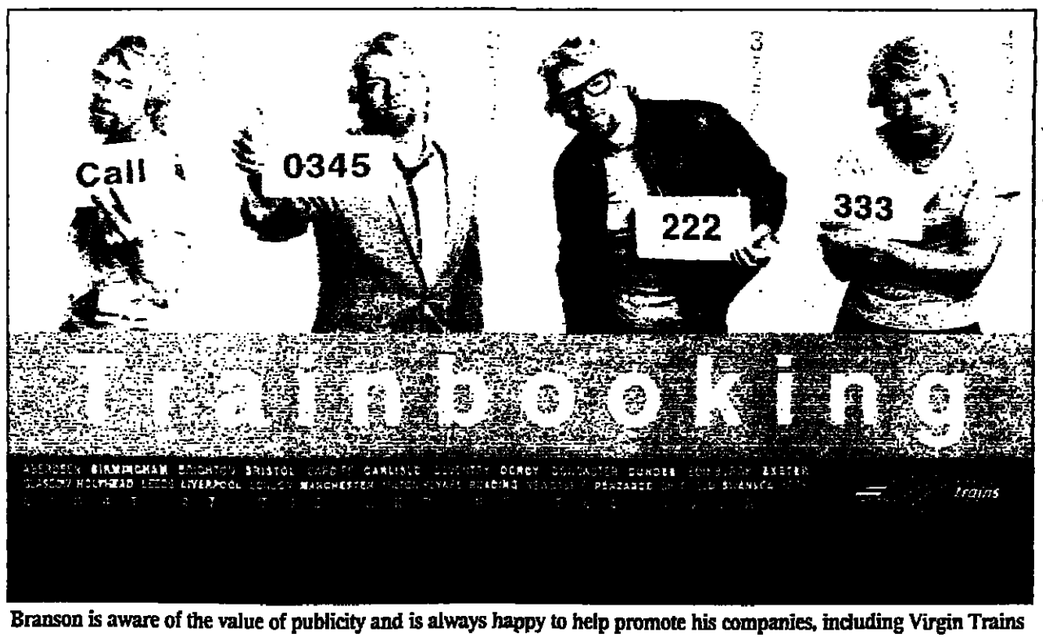
Richard Branson is an extraordinary creature. As his book shows, he does not read or reflect. He just does. And his life is proof that there is a great deal to be said for that.

ON MONDAY IN THE TIMES

VIRGIN VERSUS BRITISH AIRWAYS: HOW THE WAR BEGAN

Relentless pressures on the Virgin empire

Jon Ashworth examines the diverse range of companies franchised under Richard Branson



Branson is aware of the value of publicity and is always happy to help promote his companies, including Virgin Trains

A decade ago, Richard Branson's Virgin Group was best known for two things: records, built on the success of Mike Oldfield's *Tubular Bells*, and planes, in the shape of a fun, if slightly creaky, transatlantic air service. Virgin Megastores were opening in Paris and Sydney. Virgin plc was being taken back into private hands after a brief and unhappy flirtation with the stock market.

Ten years on, even ardent Branson followers would be hard-pressed to list all the different Virgin interests. Planes and records have led on to soft drinks, financial services, trains, cinemas, cosmetics, bridalwear and radio stations. There are plans for a chain of health clubs, to be called Virgin Active, and for a Virgin mobile phone venture. Helicopters decked in Virgin red are a familiar sight over London, while Virgin taxi motorbikes — or limobikes — regularly outsmart motorists stuck in traffic jams.

Yet this extraordinary growth has come at a price: namely, the relentless pressure on the famous red-and-white Virgin brand. Taking on the West Coast rail franchise has seen Virgin associated with something altogether new: failure. When a train pulls in late, its carriages dirty and overcrowded, it is Virgin that gets the blame, not the years of neglect inflicted by British Rail. In time, Branson will undoubtedly work his magic, but the potential damage to the Virgin brand is already there.

The same is true of Virgin's push into financial services, through Virgin Direct, where Branson features in humorous advertisements for pensions and personal equity plans. Virgin Direct has added some welcome zest to the rather grey business of selling financial products, but shares can go down as well as up.

Adding to the pressure, the year has seen Virgin's finances come under unprecedented scrutiny. In February, *The Economist* trawled through the accounts and concluded that, of all the Virgin offshoots, only Virgin Atlantic consistently makes money. It was also pointed out that Virgin's Byzantine financial structure, which includes impenetrable British Virgin Islands-based holding companies, sits curiously at odds with Branson's refreshingly straightforward image.

In fact, there is nothing particularly sinister about this type of arrangement. Tax planning no doubt plays a part, and cloaking parts of the empire from public scrutiny helps to hide sensitive information from mercenary competitors. As for Virgin's finances, Branson has long argued the case for long-term growth over short-term profits. Virgin Records, he points out, took 15 years to turn a decent profit.

Whatever, Virgin has grown into a formidable collection of businesses — a series of franchises that are united under the Virgin brand.

Virgin in 1998 comprises more than 200 companies and generates sales of more than £2.5 billion a year. Interests include Virgin Cola, formed in 1994 as a joint venture with Cott Corporation of Canada, but now wholly owned by Virgin. Virgin Direct, backed by AMP, the Australian insurer, has become an instantly recognisable name in the market. Music retailing falls under Virgin Entertainment, which includes Virgin Our Price — formerly owned by WH Smith — and the Virgin Megastores.

Virgin is investing heavily in Virgin Cinemas, bought from MGM in 1995 in partnership with American investors, but has cut its losses on Virgin Vodka, a joint venture with William Grant & Sons, the Scottish distiller. The label never really took off and was wound up in March.

Victory Corporation, set up to market Virgin-branded clothing and Virgin Vie cosmetics, recently gave warning of deepening losses and has seen its shares — listed on the Alternative Investment Market — languishing at low levels. A new record label, V2, has yet to demonstrate whether it can replicate the success of Virgin Records.

Virgin Trains, which owns the West Coast and Cross-Country rail franchises, won a timely cash handout in June when Stagecoach, the transport group, paid £158 million for a 49 per cent stake. Virgin Express, a low-cost European carrier, continues to slug it out in an unforgiving market.

Virgin Atlantic remains the star turn, serving 15 destinations from Tokyo to Johannesburg, but is vulnerable, like all airlines, to the cyclical nature of the business. The last downturn, triggered by a drop in bookings following the Gulf War, cost the world's airlines close to £11 billion over four years. There is also the threat of increased competition on the North Atlantic.

All this makes for a colourful tapestry, but one which can outlast the unravelling of one or two threads.

Branson is adept at bringing in partners to spread round the cash and limit the downside when things go wrong. The challenge, now, lies in protecting the Virgin name at a time when it is spread more thinly than ever before.

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All work carried out is using traditional methods which require great skill and are in keeping with the age of the item, mindful that it is an antique.

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هكذا من الأصل

Anne Robinson



● "DAVID STARKEY has just been lynched down there," reported an NBC executive as we made our way to join a camera crew in front of Kensington Palace on Monday. A fearsome ring of pilgrims at least five deep was surrounding the action and listening intently to every word being broadcast live across the Atlantic. "Now Anne Robinson, on this tragic day, a year on from the death of the much loved Princess Diana, what are your views on a memorial to her in the gardens?" demanded the NBC anchor, a formidable woman in a severe navy suit with lots of eye shadow to match.

Not wishing to see her own blonde Armani outfit receive the same going over as the volatile constitutionalist Dr Starkey, Ms Robinson's normally forthright views, it has to be said, were shamefully muted. "Well, it would be a pity if the gardens she loved were altered in any way," I whispered. "But all these people here want a memorial," insisted Blue Eye Shadow. "Yer!" yelled the crowd. "But you also want a hospital built in her name don't you?" I implored. "Yer! Lovely Princess Diana, we love Diana," came back the cry. "And you want nurses dedicated to her work don't you?" I continued. "Yer! we love Diana," they chorused. At which point, mercifully, Blue Eye Shadow introduced a commercial break and I made my exit. As did a considerable number from the crowd, who alarmingly began to follow me. I need not have feared. Four who caught up performed elaborate curtsies. I therefore intend never again to have snooty opinions about those who spend their spare time gazing moronically at Kensington Palace. I merely hope they are available for BBC focus groups arranged to elicit the names of their favourite presenters.

● NICK ROSS, incidentally, once suggested to me that we presenters get together and declare our earnings, thereby forming a considerable force against the much-unloved BBC Contracts Department. A brave thought, but it never had a hope of getting off the ground. The idea of anyone actually owning up to their own deal, only to find it was half of someone else's, would be too painful and distressing for the delicate egos involved. Well in excess of any good that might come from collective bargaining.

But you can see his point. It has been a traumatic summer break for TV faces reading details leaked to newspapers of colleagues' alleged deals: £400,000 for Jill Dando. £1.2 million for Jeremy Paxman. A million for Vanessa. Two million for Richard Whitely. And, best of all, a chat show for Melinda Messenger, fee unknown. But no doubt her agent will shortly be telling the *Daily Mail*, "Anything under three million would be a bit on the low side."

● RATHER than sulk in public, à la Peter Sissons, about the BBC's apparent need to consult viewers as to what they want, I am thinking of suggesting to the director-general top-of-the-range focus groups. This follows my learning from an absolutely impeccable source that Prince Philip adores *Watchdog*. (Rather nice to think he and the Queen sit there tut-tutting about faulty washing machines.) Unfortunately I made the mistake of boasting about this to Mrs Nick Ross, herself a senior television executive. She wasn't even mildly impressed. Instead she trumped me completely by revealing that Nick, in Ulster recently, had been greeted warmly by Gerry Adams who said he was a huge fan of *Crimewatch*.

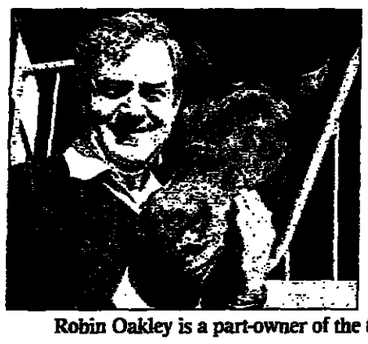
● AN early showing of Robert Redford's *The Horse Whisperer* in a viewing theatre in Soho — almost everyone else is in a black suit, Doc Martens and carrying a cutesy satchel. It is three hours long. Or in my case two hours 19, since I spend the first 41 minutes hidden behind the glossy PR brochure, while brakes squeal and unmentionable things happen to a very nice horse. The same horse, incidentally, takes a week-long journey to Montana. (This plight causing one of our number in Gloucestershire to shriek out in the Swindon multiplex last Saturday, "It hasn't had hay or water since it left New England.")

"When the director is also the lead actor, who is on crap control?" I demand of Emma, the film-maker daughter. She says this dubious task falls to the second director. In the case of *The Horse Whisperer*, I reckon he cravenly looked the other way.

● BACK from some trips abroad, I have made one important resolution: I am finally prepared to concede to that most ageing of devices, a suitcase on wheels (although I might hang on to my old luggage for travelling with film crews who, I imagine, would otherwise disown me). And, interestingly, an astonishingly large post bag after the mention of my planned Old Woman's Home. Several correspondents see no reason to wait till a husband departs. They'd like to book in immediately. More of that next week.

You can't go Flat out for success

No political scoop is as exciting as watching your horse win, says BBC political editor **Robin Oakley**





PAUL SALMON

Robin Oakley is a part-owner of the three-year-old racehorse Rhapsody in Blue. However, as much as he loves the sport, his syndicate is aptly called The Eternal Optimists

Owning horses on a journalist's salary is not easy. But thanks to syndication, splitting the costs between friends, it can be done. I have a share with a dozen or so others in Rhapsody in Blue, a three-year-old whose form leaves a lot to be desired. "The horse needs time to find himself," trainer Andy Turnell told the jockey at Brighton.

Unfortunately Rhapsody normally needs even longer to find the rest of the field. His form figures now read as a line of seven noughts. Gatherings of the owners after he has run are less the hat-throwing exultation of the winner's enclosure, more like clusters of grieving relatives around a bedside waiting to hear the worst. Advice to punters in a Lingfield racecard about our beast was simple: "Ignore". But we live in faith. Not for nothing is the syndicate named The Eternal Optimists.

The sheer excitement of the Turf as a sporting spectacle has never left me. No political secret gleaned in the Lobby ever carries quite the thrill of a gossip with a travelling head lad who puts you on to a good thing in the 3.30.

As *The Spectator*'s turf columnist, I go racing as many Saturdays as the political calender permits. But this year, for a series of BBC Science radio programmes, I have been going regularly to Neil Graham's Coronation Stables in Newmarket to learn of the pleasures and problems of training his year's consignment of Flat race two-year-olds.

Graham already has a Classic success behind him, having trained Minster Son to win the St Leger the first year he held a licence. He runs one of Newmarket's smaller yards, with around 15 horses racing. A man seemingly blessed with infinite patience, he is well equipped for a testing trade. But most people in racing are optimists. As the American trainer Jim Ryan once declared: "No man ever committed suicide or thought of retiring when he had a good two-year-old in his barn." We caught up with Neil first at last year's Tattersall's October sales. Selection, in your owners' price range, is the first task. For Neil a horse must have an athletic walk. The longer the stride when a horse is walking, the longer it is likely to be when it is galloping. "You're looking for a horse which moves in an athletic manner and makes good use of himself. You want good bone, good limbs and good feet. You look from the point of the shoulder straight down into the foot. The limbs should be in a straight line, though there's no such thing as a perfect racehorse."

For most clients he is looking for something with a bit of speed in the pedigree so that it is likely to be able to run the next year as a two-year-old. Sales also provide a guide to young horses' temperaments, says Neil. For the first time they are encountering crowds, activity and other horses in quantity. "A horse which can't cope with sales activity is unlikely to take its racing well."

By February the stable is in full routine. Graham starts work in the yard at 6.00, by which time his head lad will have been round to check that all is well and the horses have eaten up. (Horses in the wild forage all the time and racehorses too munch through the night.)

The two-year-olds have been broken in. The initial stage, says Neil, is all about winning their confidence. Now it is time to work on making them fitter and stronger.

> 'No man thought of suicide with a good two-year-old racing'

But isn't it horribly early in their lives to think of racing these comparative babies?

Financial pressures, says the trainer. Breeders need a return on their horses and like to sell their mares' and stallions' offspring as foals or yearlings. Owners want their horses on a racecourse providing the fun they have bought them for as soon as possible. To get "quite a nice yearling" will now set back an owner around 25,000 guineas, says Neil. They will then have to allow for training and travelling costs of around £16,000 a year.

According to Graham's vet, Richard Greenwood, the current slight increase in knee and joint injuries is due to the greater strains on horses' legs because of the growing weight of stable lads. He welcomes the increasing number of girls coming into stable work for that reason.

The physical attention is constant. Graham checks the horses' legs morning and evening, feeling for any heat or fluid which would indicate a problem. "We're dealing with such young animals. Their skeletal system is not technically mature until they are five. Two-year-olds are extremely immature and nearly all lameness problems are skeletal-related."

Is there much difference in handling the sexes? "If a colt is being a bit intractable, you can bully them a bit more than you can a filly."

An early morning in March finds us on the testing climb of Warren Hill on Newmarket Heath. Lads and lasses legged up by the trainer, the Graham string's first lot has clattered eagerly out of the yard to walk up to the Heath. The grass gallops are a further stage in the youngsters' education.

"You have to mentally attune them to racing, get them wanting to race," Graham explains. "The horse is a herd animal and doesn't necessarily want to burst clear and leave the pack. Very few horses are leaders by nature. You have to hone their competitive spirit and not destroy it before you get to the racecourse."

Graham brings his youngsters along through the spring, building strength and muscle tone. "One's looking to see that they're content in their work, going about it in a professional manner."

Temperament matters too. "If you start to push a horse along a little too hard, it may start to boil over, to worry a bit about its work and you may need to back off a bit and try to regain its confidence."

Early on it looks as though Twin Engines and the filly Trump Street will be among the first to see a racecourse. In early May their canters have been stepped up to exercise at a steady half speed.

"We're teaching them how to race, how to lead, how to follow another horse, how to move out and quicken up. We're looking to see what sort of speed they've got. It's very easy to frighten these young horses at this stage, and if they're frightened here they're going to be even more frightened at the racecourse and fail to fulfil their potential." It has been a difficult season for training young horses, with so much rain. And there have been the usual problems. Trump Street and Tawadud have had minor muscle pulls in their quarters. The stable has been doing fine with six winners among the older horses. But, come early August, none of the two-year-olds has yet been out on a racecourse.

On August 4 Graham reckons Twin Engines is close to a racecourse debut. He calls in champion jockey Michael Roberts to ride him. A lead horse is provided and the jockey is told to come and join him on Twin Engines after four furlongs and ask his mount to quicken up and "see how he goes".

After the gallop the jockey says: "He went quite nice." But he adds that Twin Engines "hasn't got the greatest of actions", and is a bit weak. "He's having a good blow for doing nothing really."

Ten days later, Trump Street makes her racecourse debut among a useful field at Newbury. This is the moment when trainers and owners discover whether their swans are swans — or geese. The filly makes a bold showing, coming on nicely in the last two furlongs to finish fourth. She is a serious racehorse. And a fortnight later, on August 28, Twin Engines also races for the first time, at Newmarket. He finishes in the latter half of 20 runners but shows good early speed. Both look the type to win races at three. Their trainers — and their owners — can keep on hoping...

● *Horses for Courses can be heard on Radio Four, beginning on Friday, September 11 at 11.30pm*

KIT HOUGHTON



Special care has to be taken not to push young horses too hard

For anyone interested in water



Don't miss the Southampton International Boat Show 12th - 20th September.

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12th - 20th September 1998. Preview Day 11th September.
Open 10.00am - 7.00pm (6.00pm on 20th).
'Park and Ride' – M27 junction 3 (follow the sign).

All information correct at time of going to press.

30th Anniversary Festival SOUTHAMPTON INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

Western Esplanade, Southampton

Where a rugby hero learns his tackle

Gareth Edwards is easy bait for a Hardy fishing rod, he admits to

Alan Road

Gareth Edwards says that he would prefer to catch a salmon on a Welsh river than score a try at Cardiff Arms Park. Given that in 1973, while playing for the Barbarians against the All Blacks, the former Welsh scrum-half scored one of the greatest and the most frequently rerun televised tries of all time, his endorsement must rank high in the annals of fishing eulogies.

Wales's most capped player, who retired 20 years ago, is trying to explain the competing attractions of rugby and fishing in the House of Hardy tackle shop on London's Pall Mall.

A Hardy Brothers shop has occupied this desirable site opposite St James's Palace for more than a century. The firm was formed 125 years ago — an anniversary being celebrated by the issue of replicas of the company's original brass reels, priced at almost £900.

To mark Mr Edwards's first appearance in a Welsh jersey in 1967, his fellow villagers in Gwauncae-Gurwen presented him with a Hardy fishing rod.

CHRISTOPHER BARKER



Gareth Edwards, left, and The House of Hardy manager, Simon Grater: anglers can buy the finest tackle and swap stories

my favourite shop

"It was the Rolls-Royce of rods," he recalls with gratitude. Little did the 19-year-old student realise that one day he would be an esteemed customer at the rod makers' London shop, or that he would fish with members of the founder's family.

The villagers' gift was a recognition that fishing predated rugby in their local hero's affections by many years. At the age of five his first rod had been a bamboo pole. His line was a length of twine bought from the local ironmonger, and a bent pin served as a hook. It is a far cry from a Hardy 7ft 2in split bamboo rod costing £952.

Mr Edwards was reminiscing in front of a plaque bearing the Prince of Wales feathers. The Prince's is one of ten royal warrants awarded to Hardy this century. During Mr Edwards's international career, he wore that emblem on his chest 53 consecutive times — a record unlikely to be broken.

All too often in his youth, the streams near home ran black with coal dust from the pits that still operated in the 1950s. "I remember the thrill of running home with my first trout and asking my mother to cook it," Mr Edwards, now 51, says. Its gills were full of coal dust. "How the hell it had survived I don't know."

Tackle shops played an important role in the young boy's angling education. There was Harri Tom's place in nearby Garnant. "Harri's shop was crammed with rods, reels and flies he tied himself," Mr Edwards recalls. It was here that he listened to his elders discuss the finer points of angling.

While he will never forget Harri's, it could hardly compare with the traditional splendour of the House of Hardy, where Simon Grater, the manager, says counter staff once wore morning suits to greet their aristocratic clientele.

Anglers, who may spend entire nights patiently wading in ice-cold rivers, do not take kindly to being rushed when choosing tackle. "Sometimes a gentleman who wants to spend about £5 on flies could be here chatting for a couple of hours," the manager says.

"Then you can have a customer with a cab waiting who runs into the shop with a list: this rod, those reels and in five minutes you will have taken in excess of £1,000."

Mr Edwards knows the temptation. "Anglers recognise that most tackle is designed to catch us and not the fish," he says astutely, waving a hand towards the shelves of gleaming equipment. Members of the royal family are not immune to the lure. Replicas of letters of satisfaction from Buckingham Palace adorn a wall opposite the shop entrance.

Throughout its history the company, which has a factory in Alnwick, Northumberland, has been responsible for some of the most radical advances in tackle design. Its craftspeople, who fashion traditional cane rods by methods used for more than a century, also turn out the latest carbon rods.

Thanks to its nationwide network of dealers, the London shop is also an unofficial clearing house for information about the state of Britain's rivers. "We can ring up and find where the best fishing conditions are, where the fish are biting," Mr Grater says.

Sporting superstar status brought Mr Edwards opportunities to fish rivers beyond the borders of the Principality — as far afield as South Africa and New Zealand. In fact, he believes strongly in the therapeutic powers of the sport: "I felt it kept me sane as I got involved in the pressures of international rugby."

Sadly for his fans, there will be no more thrilling tries at Cardiff Arms Park, but there should be plenty more salmon in Welsh rivers to test Mr Edwards and that Hardy rod.

● *House of Hardy, 61 Pall Mall, London SW1 (0171-839 5515). Open Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-5pm.*



The House of Hardy on Pall Mall: a royal favourite

GADGETS

THICK, absorbent kitchen rolls have been with us for decades, so why has no one has devised a fool-proof holder which works? Slot a bulky kitchen towel into a wall-mounted holder and you would be lucky to be able to tear off half a sheet.

So say hello to Ducky, the latest place to stick a kitchen roll, from the SKS Fun and Fantasy range. This is a double-backed wire frame with chunky plastic in the shape of webbed duck's feet. The paper roll slides over the frame and can be unwound as needed, even from new. The duck's feet raise the roll a few centimetres above the work surface, so it does not become soggy should anything spill nearby.



Kitchen towel Ducky

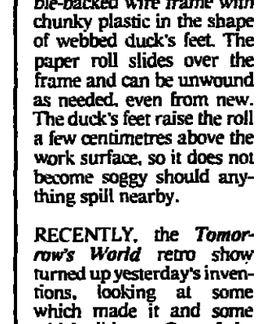
RECENTLY, the *Tomorrow's World* retro show turned up yesterday's inventions, looking at some which made it and some which did not. One of the success stories was the Chop & Pour board. This is an oblong plastic chopping board with a handle shaped into one end. Along the width of the board and the handle are two grooves in a V-shape, making the sides foldable for funnelling diced or sliced food into pans, bowls or the bin.

Although the Swedish-made Chop & Pour is not especially stylish, it does save spillage during cooking. The drawback is that you have to buy "colour-coded" sets of four. Each colour is for a different food to prevent "cross contamination" although, if cleaned well after use, that should not matter. I kept one and gave the others away to three equally clumsy chefs.

TIM WAPSHOTT

● *Ducky, £21, from Eclectica (01440 731741). Chop & Pour boards, four for £8.50 plus p&p, from Lakeland Limited (01594 88100)*

SHOP WATCH



☐ **The Bead Shop** has a dizzying choice, including this year's hot favourites, crystal beads and semi-precious stones. Find it at 21a Tower Street, London WC2 (0171-240 0931). Mail order catalogue is £3.

☐ **Direct Lenses** sells disposable contact lenses by mail order. Call 0171-350 1234 for a catalogue.

☐ **Bed Bazaar**'s showroom has a 2,000-strong stock of antique metal beds, from hospital and monks' beds to Victorian bedsteads. New mattresses are made to order. Find it at The Old Station, Station Road, Framlingham, Suffolk (01728 723756).

☐ **Sanderson**'s Organic range sidesteps its English-rose image with wood-grained wallpapers and giant fern fabrics. Find them at 112-120 Brompton Road, London SW3 (0171-584 3344).

☐ **Denim in Style**'s beanbags are the ultimate for pampered pets. There is pink denim (£59 for XXS) or indigo (£120 for XXL) and covers are washable. Call 01666 890230 for mail order.

☐ **UPDATE: the book**, pictured, a home shopping lifestyle catalogue, is now available on 0800 3288488. Order Betty Jackson, Whistles or Designers Guild on the phone ... **Vivienne Westwood**'s floral oriental perfume, Boudoir, is at Harvey Nichols (0171-235 5000 for mail order).

JUDITH WILSON

GEORG JENSEN

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Our long-established London shop remains at 15 New Bond Street, W1Y 9PE
Tel: 0171-499 6541 & 0171-629 3622

Boxing clever

STORAGE

Storage is becoming so stylish and efficient these days that entire shops are now dedicated to keeping homes clutter-free. The Holding Company specialises in novel storage accessories, and mail-order company McCord has a catalogue devoted to maximising your home space creatively. The message is that if you have a busy life an effective storage system can save time and take the frustration out of daily tasks by ensuring that you can find things quickly.

"Plan storage around usage and convenience," says McCord's creative director, David White. His no-fuss approach is to divide your belongings into three groups.

"Everyday items which should be kept in easy access storage such as open baskets, top drawers or open shelving. Anything that is used once a week can be stored in filing cabinets, lower drawers, trunks or under the bed, and deep storage or seasonal possessions such as clothes can be packed away in boxes and stacked in the least accessible areas such as attics and sheds."

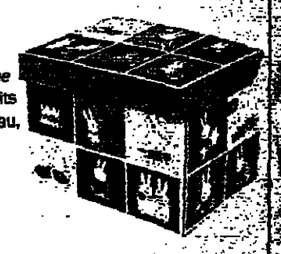
In Dinah Hall and Barbara Weiss's book *Storage*, getting organised should not be a chore and can in fact have an "uplifting effect, giving you the energy and enthusiasm to re-evaluate the way you live". The book suggests considering durability and flexibility as well as price when buying storage products.

Freestanding storage, for example, has the advantage of travelling with you if you move, portable baskets are useful for items like sewing kits or tools that may be needed regularly in different rooms and furniture that doubles as storage is useful when space is restricted.

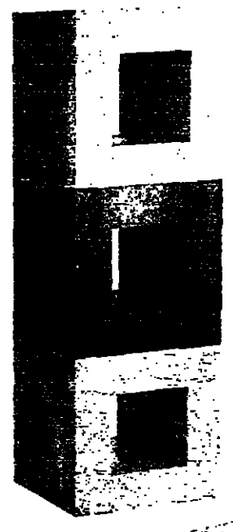
If finding the space for storage is a problem in the first place and you think you have already exhausted all the available space in your home, then think again.

Commonly under-utilised nooks and crannies to look out for are the spaces either side of the chimney breast, above kitchen units, under beds and beside wardrobes.

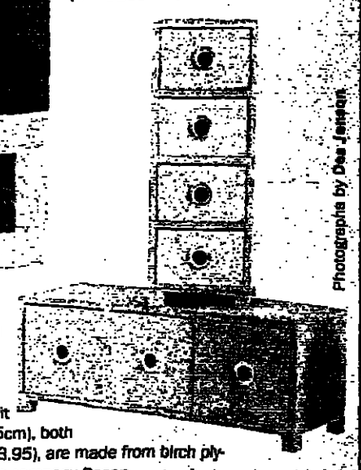
MARY ANN PERCY



RIGHT: This small cardboard storage box, £6.50, decorated in patchwork illustrations of Miffy the rabbit, is easy to stack thanks to its handles and fitted lid. From Bureau, call 0171-379 7898



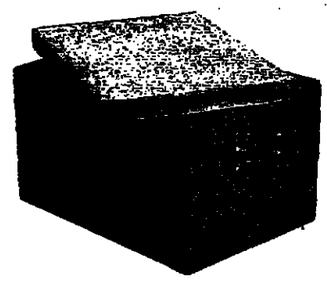
LEFT: Rajko's wooden cubes, £500 each, are separate units which can be used as storage or seating. Available in bog oak, beech or maple from Haus (0171-255 2557)



RIGHT: The horizontal three-drawer unit (H 17cm, L 45cm, D 15.5cm) and the vertical four-drawer unit (H 38cm, L 14cm, D15cm), both £69 each (plus p&p £3.95), are made from birch plywood. From mail-order company Ocean (0800 132 985) www.oceancatalogue.co.uk



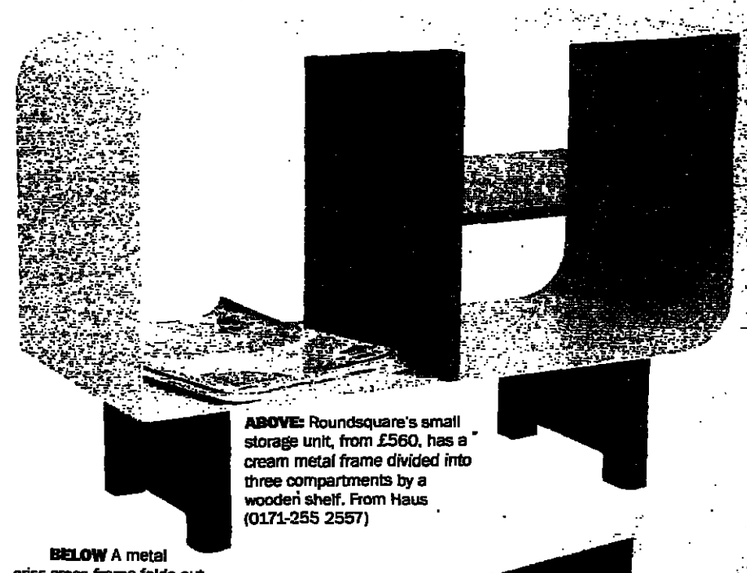
RIGHT: For utilising wasted space underneath beds, the Wheelie box rolling drawer, £22.95 (plus £2.95 p&p), has four swivelling castors, making it effortless to move around. From McCord (0370 9087020) ref: 50227



ABOVE: Pricey but stylish, this large brown leather chest, £250, is available from specialists the Holding Company (0171-352 1600)



ABOVE: The double-door cabinet in galvinised steel, £250, is expected to arrive this week at Jerry's Home Stores (0171-225 2246)

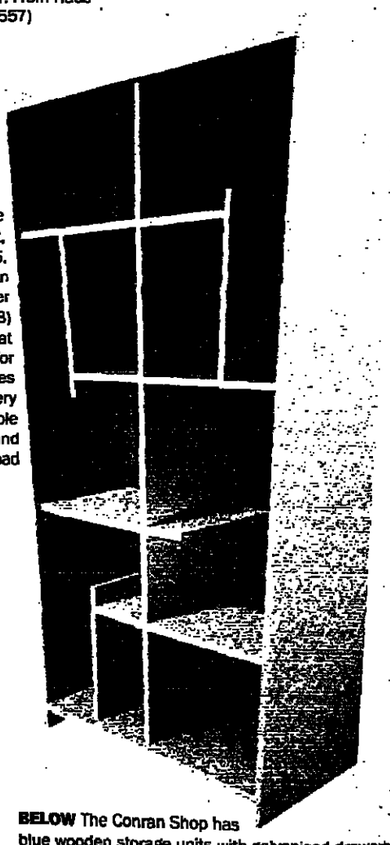


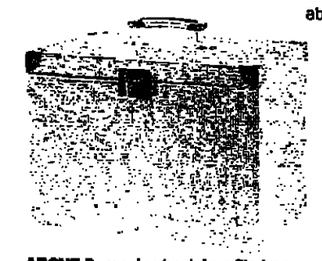
ABOVE: Roundsquare's small storage unit, from £560, has a cream metal frame divided into three compartments by a wooden shelf. From Haus (0171-255 2557)

BELOW A metal criss-cross frame folds out to support this velcro-fitted canvas drawer unit, £35, from House of Fraser (0171-963 2236)

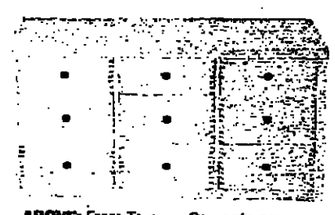


RIGHT The Frame shelving unit, £385 to £445, from new design store Bulldozer (0171-613 1283) has shelves that are deep enough for storing books, files or clothes. A delivery service is available in the UK and abroad

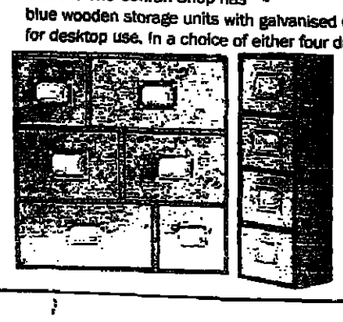




ABOVE Bureau's aluminium file box, £36.50, snaps securely shut with a clasp and has a hinged handle making it fully portable. As before



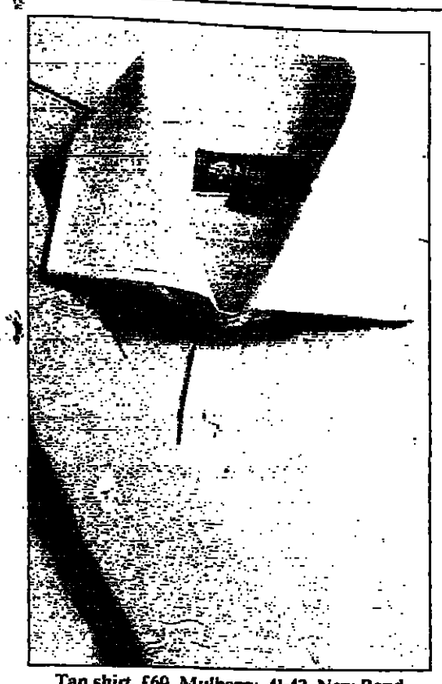
ABOVE: From Terence Conran's new own-label Conran Collection range (0171-399 0710), the Pendine nine-drawer stack, £1,110, has a waxed natural maple finish



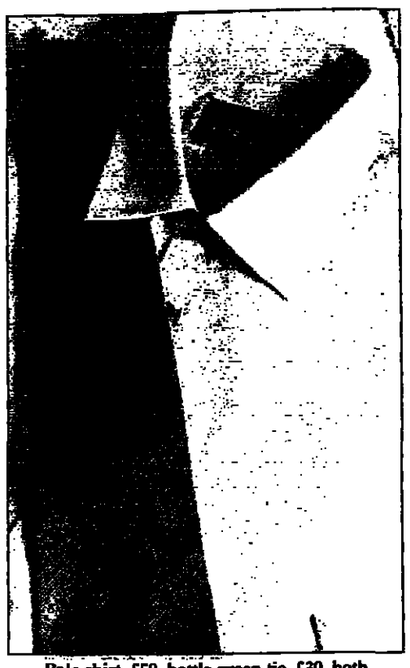
BELOW The Conran Shop has blue wooden storage units with galvanised drawers for desktop use. In a choice of either four drawers, £22.95, or six drawers, £39.95. Call 0171-589 7401

هكذا من الدهر

هكذا من الاصل



Tan shirt, £69, Mulberry, 41-42 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-491 3900). Light brown floral tie, Burro, £45, 19a Floral Street, WC2 (0171-240 5120)



Pale shirt, £59, bottle green tie, £39, both from Paul Costelloe, 156 Brompton Road, SW7 (0171-761 7610)



Plum shirt, £35, Linea at House of Fraser (0171-963 2236). Two-tone tie, £59, Alfred Dunhill, 48 Jermyn Street, SW1 (0171-290 8600)



Light brown shirt, £90, Etro, 14 Old Bond Street, W1 (0171-495 5767). Black tie, as part of a shirt and tie set from £60, Farah (01376 502345)



Stone shirt, £85, Burro, as before. Brown tie, £16.99, River Island, branches nationwide (0181-991 4500)

Pectoral spectacles



A man's shirt is now more than just something from which to hang a tie, says **Robin Dutt**

NOT SO LONG AGO, the style of a shirt was simply an afterthought. Mainly in white, blue or striped, all meaning business, it was a place to hang a tie – and not much else. But now this often overlooked sartorial essential is being rediscovered.

Perhaps the last great era of unusual shirts was the 1970s. Who can forget (though how many would like to?) those Brutus or penny round collars boasting prints of art deco divas, acid trip starbursts or disco dots – so pre-Damien Hirst? The 1980s, with its emphasis on sharp suiting and big shoulders, rendered the shirt useful only to sport hideous and usually Italian printed-silk motif ties.

Today's shirts are different. Some are more body-skimming than ever, emphasising chest and waist. We've got Tom Ford at Gucci to thank for that, bringing back the "Cosa Nostra" 1970s look à la Robert Redford – all one colourblock from shoes to ties. Monochrome is the contemporary beat.

Jermyn Street is, of course, world-renowned as the street of shirt-makers. Here, the old school – Turnbull & Asser, Hilditch & Key, T M Lewin and Hawes & Curtis – sits cheek by jowl with the young(er) pretenders: Favourbrook, Thomas Pink, Hackett and Charles Tyrwhitt.

Turnbull & Asser creates exquisite ready-to-wear examples in fine cloths, but it is its bespoke service that marks the company out. Its tails are tucked into the pants of a smattering of kings from faraway lands and contemporary British dandies. Expect to pay from £110 for a bespoke shirt.

But off the peg need not mean naff. The high street, ruled by Marks and Spencer (elegant two tones and quality shirting cloths), Jigsaw (sleek metropolitan modes), and River Island (bold brights), offer choice and value.

White, blue and striped are giving way this autumn to rich russets, golds, bronzes, dusky pinks and purples – warm tones to team with some elegant neckwear. So while suiting stays sombre, serious and minimal, echoing the "Prada or nada" philosophy, shirts become fun focal points. And while colour and fit are two obvious concerns, the cut of collars is vital too.

Choose a hallmark cutaway from Hilditch & Key, a hundred years old next year, to team with a full Windsor knot. Or favour instead Oxford button downs and more extreme points from T M Lewin's range of black, white and Wedgwood blue specials – a tasteful throwback to the 1970s. But please, this time ditch the gold medallion and chain.

Photographs by
ANNA STEVENSON
Grooming by
FIRYAL ARNEIL for
Stagedoor (0171-233 1460)
Styling by AMANDIP UPPAL
Model: JAKE



Olive shirt, from £65, Donna Karan, 19 New Bond, W1 (0171-495 3100). Copper tie, £45, Etro, as above



Taupe shirt, £120, Patrick Cox, 129 Sloane Street, SW3 (0171-730 8886). Beige and red checked tie, £49, Mulberry, 41-42 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-491 3900)

Yellow shirt, £17.99, River Island, branches nationwide, (0181-991 4500). Orange and purple spotted tie, £55, Kelsey, 58 Lambs Conduit Street, WC1 (0171-404 1616)

Gold silk shirt, £130, Jeffery Green, Unit 55 Battersea Business Centre, 103 Lavender Hill, SW11 (0171-978 7979). Gold and blue tie, £30, Woodstock, from a range at Selfridges, W1, and Harrods, SW3

THREE OF A KIND

Tie holder in natural leather, £575, Hermès, 179 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-823 1014)

Wooden tie holder, £5.50, Tie Rack, nationwide (0181-230 2333)



Brown leather travel tie holder, £69, Austin Reed, 103-113 Regent Street, W1 (0171-734 6789)



Red shirt, £16, Marks and Spencer, nationwide (0171-935 4422). Red and grey striped tie, from £45, Donna Karan, as above

Just desserts for Cool Hand Luke

Dominic Bradbury talks to the man who has just bought one of London's top restaurants, The Ivy

He is the Victor Kiam of the restaurant world. Luke Johnson loved The Ivy so much that he bought the company, along with its partner Le Caprice. The two great luvvies' favourites add to Mogens Tholstrup's premier batch of London eateries — Daphne's, The Collection and Pasha — that Mr Johnson had already snapped up. The Belgo Group — already valued at around £90 million — has come from nothing to owning nine restaurants, with another six openings within the next six months, another 50 or so within five years. The 36-year-old former Pizza Express boss has proven again that he is a Cool Hand Luke.

"Human nature is not to stand still but to do things," says the affable but no-nonsense Mr Johnson, "and there are more people out there than ever who want to eat out, and eat out well. My view is that London has become the most innovative city in Europe, possibly the world, in terms of cuisine, and eating out is now a major attraction, whereas ten years ago it was quite the reverse. Life is about being expansive and ambitious."

For some, all this expansiveness went just a step too far when it was mooted. The Ivy was for sale two weeks ago. It sparked a small firework of protest from movers and shakers who like to claim it as their very own home from home. Would it start serving pizzas with a blue neon sign, they worried, or would they be served by waiters dressed as monks serving Belgian beer? And would The Ivy be rolled out as a chain with one on every respectable high street, spoiling the unique charm of a restaurant, where — as Mr A. A. Gill put it in his hymn to the subject — "the tables and chairs are the most sought after in Britain"?

"There's no intention of changing anything, so the customer shouldn't even be aware we are involved," says Mr Johnson reassuringly, citing The Ivy as his own favourite place to eat out. "The restaurants are so well run, the standards so impeccable that in terms of us improving the operation, it's unlikely."



Luke Johnson: expanding

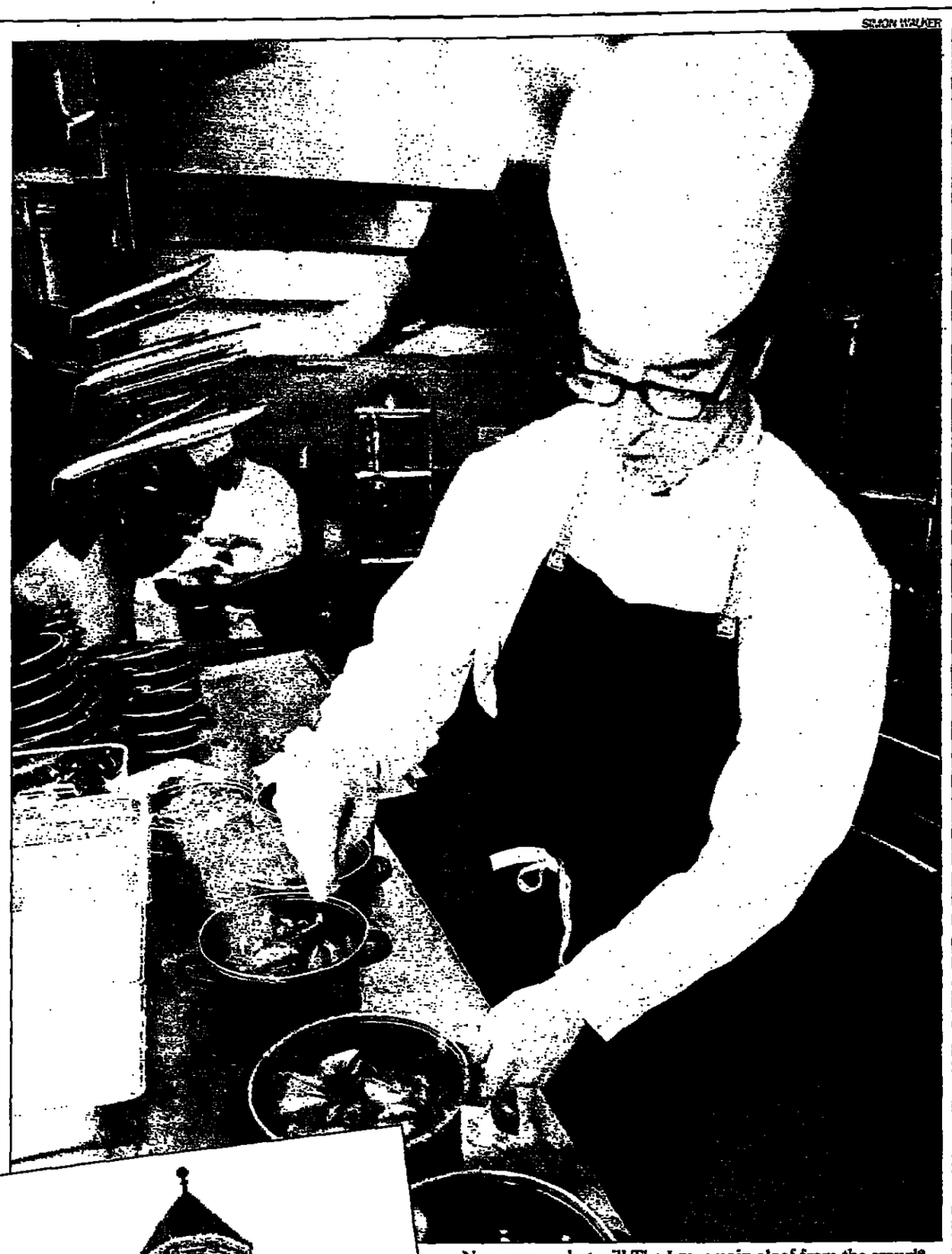
Chris Corbin and Jeremy King, who relaunched The Ivy in 1990, will continue to run both The Ivy and Le Caprice, plus their two J. Sheekeys fish restaurants, as part of a £13 million deal with the Belgo Group. "It's almost a merger because Chris and Jeremy will be taking 40 per cent of the consideration in shares, so will be very much committed to the success of the whole group" Mr Johnson says.

"We are helping them to finance the re-opening of J Sheekey off St Martin's Lane, in October. That was the original Sheekeys, opened last century, and has the same kind of formula that Chris and Jeremy have spent decades perfecting at Le Caprice and The Ivy — an old, slightly faded restaurant, restoring it to its former glory with classic, recognisable meals, done to perfection, with impeccable levels of service at reasonable prices. And I'm sure that eventually they will do another restaurant, and when the time comes we will help them with that."

The new deal sits well alongside the Tholstrup restaurants, creating a tier of up-market one-off eating places with no intention to go and roll with it and exploit the brands. Dane in vogue Tholstrup - who did a £9.3 million deal with the Belgo Group — has similarly kept control of his own restaurant and is working on developing one or two new ethnic eateries in London within the next nine months, along the lines of Pasha, with its Moroccan influence, as well as talk of opening another Tholstrup in New York.

"Mogens is a successful restaurateur who wanted a partner because he felt he had too much to do by himself," Mr Johnson says. "He wanted to free up his time to design and open new individual restaurants, and we felt there was a certain amount we could add in terms of behind the scenes improvements, administratively, which could take some of the burden off his shoulders. And the up-market ethic niche is something we could see a second or third of. Those sort of customers, spending that sort of money, don't want to be eating in a brand, they want to be eating somewhere unique."

If King, Corbin and Tholstrup can largely be left to their own devices, it's the other side of the business, building up Belgo itself, that's going to take more of Mr Johnson's valuable time, and that of Belgo Group chief executive, Andy Bassadone, formerly of Planet Hollywood. They worked on the My Kinda Town restaurant chain together, before selling out to Capital Radio. But the route they are taking with Belgo — founded in 1992 in Chalk Farm, North London, by the French-Canadian Denis Blais and Anglo-Belgian Andre Plisnier, followed by another larger restaurant in Covent Garden in 1995 — is far more Pizza Express. Now only a non-executive director, Mr Johnson took that chain on as chairman five years ago, floated it and took it to 200-odd sites, making much of his personal fortune with his own stake in the company.



SIMON WALKER

New owners, but will The Ivy remain aloof from the crowd?



Although Mr Johnson has a decade of experience in the restaurant business, he is not an "obsessive foodie" and food never played a huge role in his childhood: his father, the write, columnist and ex-*New Statesman* editor Paul Johnson, and his mother, who once stood as a Labour candidate for Parliament, were never especially passionate about the culinary life. And it was medicine that was his chosen subject at Oxford, although he began staging commercial parties and club nights outside college after being warned about the racket coming from his own small set of rooms.

Medicine went by the wayside, he joined an advertising agency, left to be Jonathan Aitken's researcher for a spell, then an analyst with a stockbroking company before setting up his own and taking a road that led him to restaurants and the Belgo group. "The restaurant business is a lot more fun, full of lively people and I do love going to them — that's one of my luxuries."

Like The Ivy, Belgo was one of Mr Johnson's favourite restaurants — rotisserie chicken and wild boar sausages are his preferred indulgences. As he starts rolling Belgo out, as with the Pizza Express template, the emphasis is on preserving quality and creating new eateries which are the same in terms of menu and service, but different in that every one is an original, refurbished building with an interesting architectural take, like the first two Belgos.

"The first new one is in Bristol, in an old, listed building, a grain warehouse down by the waterfront, which will open in November. It will be possibly Bristol's most architecturally stunning restaurant and that alone will help draw customers. It's the right sort of city for us, although there is a randomness to it — you need the right site and we found it in Bristol.

A third London Belgo opens in Ladbroke Grove next February, and sites are also in hand in Oxford and Dublin. Mr Johnson and Mr Bassadone plan to open 20 Belgo restaurants in Britain over the next five years, plus 20 to 30 Belgo bars, focusing on the beers and a more limited menu. There's talk of opening abroad but America is first, starting with New York in December. Mr Johnson has set up a partnership with the giant US restaurant group Apple South and they are helping Belgo to open over there. In return, Mr Johnson is looking for London sites for one of Apple South's McCormick and Schmick upmarket seafood restaurants.

While Andre Plisnier has moved away from Belgo, the other original founder Denis Blai sits in New York pioneering the opening, just opposite the in-crowd favourite, Indochine, in the East Village. "If Belgo will work in America, it will work there," says Mr Johnson. "The area is full of actors, designers, media people — classic Belgo customers. We feel it's something sufficiently different to what New York currently has to offer with good value food in different surroundings, a mind-blowing beer element and high levels of service. And if it works there, we'll go to other cities like Boston and Philadelphia."

He knows the difference between a restaurant like The Ivy — so successful because it is unique — and a restaurant like Belgo, ready to develop as a chain. "At Belgo we have a reputation, we have served thousands of customers every week for six years, and they keep coming back. They know they are going to get good food, good service at a sensible price, and that's important."

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WHAT YOU NEED TO BOOK A TABLE AT THE IVY

The Ivy is famous for being one of London's most difficult restaurants to book a table in. Is this true? Largely, yes. The Ivy uses a system which ensures that it is unlikely a stranger will eat there — one reason why regulars regard it as nearer a club than a restaurant. Working weeks in advance, tables are saved for one sitting. When London's media, film and theatre worlds call to book a table, most are told that they will be called back. If you are called back on the same day, you may allow yourself a small grin — you are known/famous/important. If no call ever, then forget it. There are also, on the night, extra spaces saved in case an A-list celeb, such as Jack Nicholson, turns up. Members of the public who call are likely to be told that it is full for the forseeable future.

Drink



Jane MacQuitty

The rich, meaty flavours of autumn's game dishes call for well-chosen, character-packed reds

Red wines, not white, for this season's game. Although like turkey, the mildest game birds such as quail or guinea fowl could, at a pinch, make a happy marriage with a bold New World chardonnay. The 1995 Australian Classic Selection Chardonnay (Sainsbury's £6.49) has suitably fat, buttery, toasty fruit, but go easy on the trimmings.

The pinot noir of Burgundy is the most delicate of the game grapes and its rich, yet ultra-elegant style often delivers the same savoury flavours as game birds and furred game such as rabbit or hare. Be careful not to overwhelm the seductive, gentle, plummy scents of a good, gamey, red burgundy with the strongest game of all such as well-hung pheasant. If it has to be pinot noir, think about a New World interpretation of this variety, blessed with more fruit, more alcohol and more flavour. California and, increasingly, the Antipodes are good sources of these.

One step up in game grape intensity is cabernet sauvignon: while cooler-climate or vintage cabernets with strong herbaceous notes jar with game dishes, richer, riper, more blackcurranty bottles of cabernet partner game surprisingly well. Again New World cabernet comes in to focus here, with Australia, California and South Africa all producing good examples, especially with the milder meats where it works like an extra dollop of fruit sauce, or gravy. Don't be shy of New World cabernet blends either; merlot on its own is far too *sotto voce* for game, but when used to plump up cabernet's middle palate in cabernet-merlot blends it works fine. The same goes for the spicier cabernet-shiraz combos from the New World, particularly Australia.



However, the most game-suitable grape of all is the Rhône's syrah and by extension, Australia's shiraz. Indeed, if you intend to buy the first of the new season's game and do not want to think too hard about what might, or might not, work in the way of accompaniment, your best choice by far is a good, ordinary Rhône syrah from lesser appellations, like Crozes-Hermitage and St Joseph. Save the big Rhône guns such as Hermitage and Côte Rôtie for the most intensely flavoured game — hare, or venison. And if you want to go the whole hog with the darkest, bloodiest dishes of all such as jugged hare or peppered venison, your best choice is a blood, guts and thunder Australian shiraz. Alternatively, you could try a bold, black, briary zinfandel from California.

Occasionally, scented Italian or Spanish reds, particularly those made respectively from nebbiolo or garnacha grapes, go well with game casseroles. But there are no rules.

If you dislike the most pungent game meats, or prefer the delicate young flavours of the first of the new season's grouse, start your game-wine appreciation course gently. A brilliant one to begin with is the 1996 Red Burgundy Barrel-Aged Pinot Noir from Boisset, whose fresh, ripe raspberry-and-plum taste is easily worth the £5.29 from Waitrose. Or if you are uncertain about the pinot noir grape, try the half bottle for just £3.19. One burgundy flavour a notch up from here is the gorgeous 1996 Hautes Côtes de Nuits from Domaine Bertagna (Sainsbury's, £6.99) whose tender, juicy, fleshy taste reeks of roses, plums and damsons and would take well to young grouse or quail.

Garnier birds like pheasant or woodcock, or milder meats served with a rich mushroom sauce, will be better off with the more mature truffle and beetroot-laden style of the 1996 Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune, Grande Cuvée from Les Caves des Hautes Côtes (Tesco £6.99). And if you want to splash out, go for either Domaine Maillard's delicious gamey, plummy 1996 Chorey lés Beaune (Waitrose £8.95), or the intense, ripe, scented 1995 Vougeot, Domaine Bertagna (Sainsbury's £15.95).

If it's a grand, all-purpose Rhône red you are after, the smoky, most game-friendly bottle to go for is the delicious 1995 St Joseph Cuvée Côte Diane from the splendid Cave de St Desirat Rhône Co-operative whose glorious spicy, elegant, peppery character comes exclusively from the syrah grape and is aged to boot in second-year burgundy barrels from the Romanée Conti estate (Safeway £8.99).

The New World's answer to this is the rich, robust, plum and spice-packed 1996 Hardy's Bankside Shiraz (Victoria Wine, Fullers, Sainsbury's, £6.99) from Australia. The most intensely flavoured game of all is venison, ostrich and hare. If you can afford it splash out on the bold, blackberry and plum-layered 1996 Ridge Lytton Springs Zinfandel (Tanners, 01743 234500, £17.60). Now there's a game wine to remember.

Next week:
Wine in restaurants

THE DRINKS THAT TIME FORGOT



Nesquik, a powdered milkshake, was launched in 1957 by Nestlé to "make milk fun"

Nesquik

THE nation's young seem no longer to have the stomach for a good milkshake despite the heroic efforts of Wimpy bars down the years. Certainly, the version by McDonald's is more often left unfinished.

Nestlé's milkshake mix was launched in 1957 into a world peopled by *Woodentops*, *Pogles* and *Flowerpot Men*. Nesquik is that rare survivor from an almost vanished age of instant foodstuffs devised for Dr Spock's feed-on-demand generation, and it remains a modern beverage, world's away from today's dippy infusions and breast-is-best mantra.

Although free of artificial flavourings, the powdered compound is basically sugar and glucose, devised by Swiss gnomes to "make milk fun". As powdered milk pushers, however, large food companies have something of an image problem for the post-modern mum. And so, somewhat alarmingly, the boffins at Nestlé have identified a growth area in their development of "foods for the elderly". A couple of tins of strawberry Nesquik would probably see me through my dotage where I might taste again the sugary milk of human kindness and nestle in the sunlit uplands of a mid-twentieth century childhood remembered.

KATE STRONACH

HENRY HARRIS'S CHEAT OF THE WEEK



ONLY THE other day a friend was lamenting the build-up in his store cupboard of unwanted items. He felt that if he had a good root around he would come up with some genuine antiques. Knowing that my own kitchen at home would be harbouring a few treasures, I decided to set myself a task. Whatever was the oldest item there, that would have to be my cheat of the week. A little silly perhaps but I felt it would be valid as a tin or jar something having been prepared by someone or some factory would stand up as a cheat to beat all others.

I started out in this search a little nervously, expecting to find something quite dull or totally revolting. There were quite a few things past their prime, some lentils (only two months out) and then a few dull-looking pasta sauces. I was beginning to regret that I had set myself such a task when there it was. A little blue and white tin, lightly covered with a film of dust, and the date, it was a good one. "best before June 1986". The contents? Twelve extra large snails.

A vague memory of my mother putting a bag of goodies together when I first moved to London in 1983 came to me, and saying something along the lines of "you never know when they might come in handy". Well, mother, you were right but perhaps a little late in the scheme of things.

We've all had garlic butter — which really is very easy to do — so I thought that I would find a dish to go with some fish. Wild salmon has come down slightly in price, so let's get cooking.

Open the snails and rinse off the liquid. Place them in a saucepan along with salt and pepper, a small bouquet garni, a splash of white wine and a covering of water. Bring to the boil and simmer for 15 minutes. Then remove them from the liquid, set aside and keep warm.

If I am using tinned snails I always prepare them to this stage, however, the recipe will then proceed.

Pan-fry two escalopes of salmon for a minute or two on each side. Transfer to a serving dish and keep warm. In the same pan melt a knob of butter and add one tablespoon of chopped shallot, fry for a minute and then add the snails, add a splash of white wine and reduce by half and then add enough whipping cream to make two servings of sauce.

Finally, bring the sauce back to the boil, check the seasoning to your taste and throw in a handful of fresh sorrel leaves, stir once and as the sorrel discolours pour it over the salmon and serve.

● *Henry Harris is head chef at the Fifth Floor, Harvey Nichols, London SW1.*

STAR BUYS

1997 Morandé Aventura Carignan, Curico Valley, Viña Morandé, Chile; Oddbins £4.99.

Obscure, old-fashioned French grape varieties and new wave Chilean wine-making from Pablo Morandéhas produced an unusual Chilean red duo. The pair are unfiltered and richly robust, with this almost 40-year-old bush vine carignan delivering a heady rose scent and lots of sweet, crunchy fruit.



1997 Morandé Aventura Bouschet, Curico Valley, Viña Morandé, Chile; Oddbins £4.99.

In common with its sister, this brooding purple-black-hued wine made from young five-year-old vines, is for big red drinkers only. You get lots of hefty, tannic, inky oomph for less than a fiver. In particular, its plummy, herby character will wash down the first of autumn's stews and casseroles in style.



BEST OF THE REST

Until October 4, Oddbins bin-end bonanza features hundreds of discounted wines, including £1 off Concha y Toro's 1996 Cabernet-Syrah (£3.99) and the 1996 Santa Carolina Chardonnay Reserve (£4.49). Tickets for Oddbins' Wine Fairs are on sale now: Edinburgh tickets (Sept 12-13), £15, ring 0181-944 4400; Dublin tickets (Sept 19-20), IR£10, ring 00 353 1 6673033.

The Times Cook



Frances Bissell

Nothing beats the aroma of freshly baked bread. And one batch of dough stretches to a variety of mouthwatering recipes

Imagine making pizzas, calzone, fougasse, grissini and bread rolls from scratch, studded with olives, onions, sun-dried tomatoes and flavoured with herbs, saffron, fruit and nuts. All these and more are well within your reach once you have made a batch of bread dough.

It has never been easier to indulge in a spot of home baking. The range of flours available adds to the pleasure. Rye, spelt, wholemeal, unbleached and granary considerably widen your choice, and easy-blend fast-action yeast speeds up the process.

Nothing of course, can beat bread made by a skilled and experienced baker from dough using the previous day's leavening for depth of flavour, left to prove slowly, twice, and baked in a proper baking oven. But a decent loaf can be made at the first attempt.

It is also worth knowing how to make up a small batch of dough for pizzas at home, much better than anything you can buy. There are variations such as the calzone, a folded pizza; and a cross between a



fougasse and a calzone — bread dough rolled out, spread with roasted vegetables and sealed into a parcel which is then slashed and baked.

Bread dough is also excellent for savoury flat tarts. Not long ago I made a stilton and potato tart, but my favourite remains the tomato tart, using firm but sweet tomatoes, fruity olive oil, and basil.

Even your standard loaf can look different from one baking to the next. Instead of using a loaf tin, try a clean, old-fashioned earthenware flowerpot. Bread bakes very well in earthenware, greased and floured first. You can also shape the bread in the style of a cottage loaf or plait it. Brush the top with milk and scatter with sunflower seeds, poppy seeds or sesame seeds. Instead of a loaf, divide up the dough to make individual rolls, and shape into plaits, hearts, knots or flowers.

Bread flour, also called strong flour, is widely available. Most of the commercial flours are a blend of soft English wheat flour and hard Canadian wheat flour. Pure English wheat flour can be found in some local mills, which still grind it. Using this alone will give a well-flavoured bread, with a dense, cakey crumb. I enjoy using the strong Canadian flour sold by Waitrose, as I like the elastic, well-risen dough, giving a chewy crumb.

And because home-baked bread is so good that you will want to use every last bit of it, I have included one of my favourite savoury recipes with a new twist, and a version of *pain perdu*, also known as Poor Knights of Windsor and French toast.

Easy white loaf
Makes a 1kg loaf

- 500g unbleached strong flour, plus extra for kneading
- 2tsp salt
- 2tsp fast-action easy-blend yeast granules
- 6tbsp olive oil
- 300ml warm water

MIX the dry ingredients in a bowl. Make a well in the centre and pour in the liquid ingredients. Draw the flour into the centre and mix well, until the dough leaves the sides of the bowl. You can make the dough in a food processor or mixer.

Turn on to a floured surface and knead for five minutes. Shape the dough and put it into a lightly greased and floured 1kg loaf-tin. Cover loosely with lightly oiled cling film, and let it rise in a moderately warm place for about an hour until doubled in size.

Bake in a preheated oven at 200C, gas mark 6, for about 30 minutes. Turn the loaf onto a wire rack and cool completely before slicing. In making your own recipes, remember the proportions:

- 1 tablespoon salt to approx 250g flour;
- Approximately half liquid to flour;
- 500g flour will make 18 to 24 bread rolls; these will bake at the same temperature as the loaf, but will take only about 15 minutes.

Flavourings can be mixed in just before you knead the dough. Try onion and rosemary, spring onion, sage and cheese, snipped-up sun-dried tomatoes and chopped olives.

Enriched sweet bread can be made by adding two tablespoons dried, skimmed milk powder, two to three tablespoons sugar, or honey and two free-range egg yolks. You can add cinnamon and chopped walnuts, chopped, dried apricots and almonds, dates and chopped Brazil nuts, mixed, dried fruit and candied peel, or saffron and sunflower seeds.

Tomato tart
Serves 4. Make a batch of easy bread dough using 250g flour.

KNEAD for ten minutes on a floured worktop until you have a smooth, elastic dough. Cover and put to one side while you prepare the tomatoes. Cut the core out of eight large ripe tomatoes and gently squeeze out the seeds, pulp and liquid. This can be sieved and the juice used for tomato vinaigrette. Slice the tomatoes.

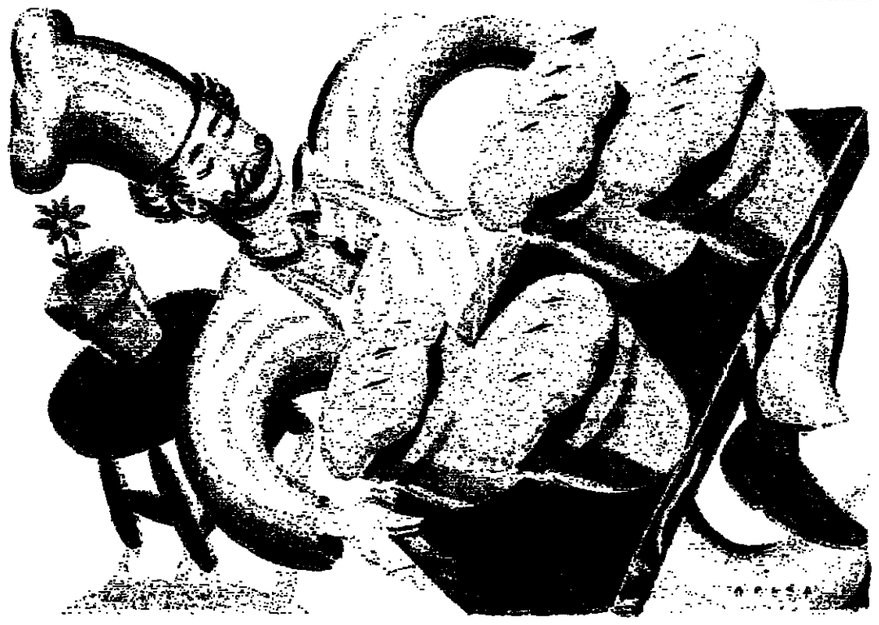
Oil a baking sheet or tart tin and roll out the dough to fit. Use roasting tins, Swiss roll trays or any other broad, flat container that will go into the oven. A pizza tray, or stone, is ideal; a paella pan can also be used. Brush the dough with olive oil and leave for 10 minutes. Arrange the tomatoes on it. Dribble on a little more olive oil, and sprinkle with coarse sea salt.

Bake in the centre of a preheated oven at 200C, gas mark 6, for 30-40 minutes. Serve warm or hot and before serving, scatter on it some torn-up basil leaves. This same method can be used for pizza, choosing whatever combination of toppings that appeals.

Potato and Stilton tart
Serves 4

MAKE the dough and roll it out, as in the previous recipe. Cover it with thin slices of parboiled and peeled waxy potatoes. Season with salt and pepper and dot with butter. Cover the potatoes with thin slices of Stilton and bake as above. This is excellent for lunch served with a salad of apples, celery and walnuts.

ALAN ADLER



Stuffed fougasse
Serves 4

MAKE the dough using 250g flour, as in the previous recipe. Roll it out to a large oval and brush with oil. In the middle, heap the prepared vegetables: aubergines cut into lengthways wedges, brushed with oil and roasted or grilled; roasted or grilled and peeled red peppers; onions cut into wedges and cooked the same way: thick, long slices of courgettes, also grilled.

Season with salt, pepper, chopped rosemary and thyme and draw the edges to the middle. Seal it firmly and carefully turn the fougasse onto an oiled baking sheet with the seam underneath. Make about five slashes in the dough, at angles like the veins in a leaf. Brush with olive oil and bake at 200C, gas mark 6, for 25 minutes.

Grissini

TAKE the bread dough as described above, using 250g flour. Pinch off walnut-size pieces and roll the dough into a thin rope, cutting to required length.

Place on a prepared baking sheet. Proceed with the rest of the dough in the same way. Leave for 15 minutes, loosely covered with a damp tea-towel.

Brush with water and scatter on poppy or sesame seeds or coarse sea salt. Bake in a preheated oven at 180C for about 15 minutes. Allow to cool on wire racks before serving.



Lancashire cheese rarebit on saffron bread

FIRST make a saffron loaf. Infuse a good pinch of saffron threads in a tablespoon of hot water and add it to the dough as described in the first recipe. Knead in the usual way, incorporating two tablespoons each chopped walnuts and finely chopped dried apricots. Bake and cool the bread. It is excellent served fresh with a selection of cheeses. Next day, turn it into something more homely. Slice the bread and toast on one side. Spread the other side with butter mixed with a little English mustard. Slice Lancashire cheese and lay it on the bread. Bake until the cheese is melting and golden. Serve immediately, with a small salad of watercress.

THE PERFECT GREEK SALAD

INEXPENSIVE and quick to make, Greek salad relies on sweet tomatoes for its quality. You can dress it up with cooked prawns, crab or squid.

■ YOU NEED, for four people, six to eight ripe tomatoes, one peeled, seeded cucumber, coarse sea salt, freshly ground black pepper, extra-virgin olive oil, one Cos lettuce or three Little Gems, 200g feta cheese, black olives and lemon juice to taste.

■ METHOD: Quarter the tomatoes, cut the cucumber into chunks, put in a large bowl, season and add a generous splash of olive oil.

Separate the lettuce leaves, rinse and dry, and discard any damaged ones. Break up the larger ones, leaving the smaller ones whole, and place on top of the tomatoes. Dice the feta cheese, and put it and the olives on top of the lettuce.

■ TO SERVE. Carefully turn the salad to mix the ingredients. Sprinkle with a little lemon juice and serve.

Next week:
The perfect fried mussels

Saffron bread dessert
Serves 4

- 8 slices saffron bread, as above
- 150ml Amontillado sherry
- 2 free-range eggs, lightly beaten
- 50g unsalted butter or 4tbsp olive oil
- *To serve: icing sugar and honey or* Pedro Ximenez sherry

TRIM the crust from the bread and cut into triangles. Dip each into the sherry and then into the beaten egg. Heat the butter or oil in a frying pan and fry the bread until golden brown on both sides. The bread can also be deep-fried. Drain the slices on paper towels and serve hot, piled high on a serving dish, sifted with icing sugar, and with some honey or the sherry trickled over the bread.

For a non-alcoholic version, beat the eggs with apple juice and serve, if not with honey, with a little elderflower syrup.

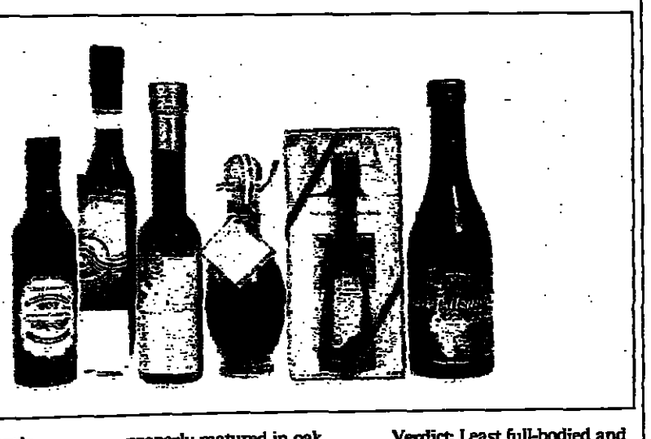
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Next week:
Cooking with rice

CONSUMING INTERESTS: BALSAMIC VINEGAR

UNTIL THE 1980s balsamic vinegar was little sold outside its region of production around Modena, home town of the golden-tongued Pavarotti. Now it is everywhere. To a nation brought up on crude malt vinegar and non-brewed condiment, the fuss about balsamic vinegars, and their widely various prices, is confusing. While you don't always get what you pay for, you never get what you don't pay for, ie, inexpensive own-brands have little of the quality of the authentically aged article.

ROBIN YOUNG



Sainsbury's Balsamic Vinegar of Modena.
£1.99 for 250ml
Claims: "Aged in wooden casks. Acidity 6 per cent. This dark amber vinegar is the perfect accompaniment to salads, meat, seafood and vegetables. Also delicious as a marinade."
Verdict: Those who think vinegar is a preservative will be surprised to see potassium metabisulphite listed as preservative in the ingredients panel. A raw, young vinegar with little complexity of flavour. Happily Sainsbury's has better, at a higher price, in its Special Selection range. ½

Harvey Nichols Aged Balsamic Vinegar of Modena. *£11.95 for 250ml*
Claims: Swing label describes method manufacture at length. "The unique flavours of balsamic vinegar come from the wood, the art of production in achieving balance in flavour and aroma with acidity. Further ageing in wood intensifies these. Acidity 6 per cent."
Verdict: High class, complex vinegar, of which a little goes a long way. Intriguing balance of sweetness and acidity, excellent on salads and with roast or pan-fried vegetables. ★★★★

Tesco Finest Balsamic Vinegar of Modena.
£10.99 for 250ml
Claims: "Chef Valentina Harris recommends. Versatile and smoothly mellow, sweet balsamic vinegar from Modena, properly matured in oak barrels is excellent on salads, roast vegetables, or as a marinade. This Balsamic Vinegar of Modena is exceptionally smooth and mellow with a balanced sweetness and acidity."
Verdict: More mellow, woody and complex in scent and flavour than the Sainsbury's or M&S samples, but still with the fierce pungency of youth. Worked well in cooking and added interest to salads, but could not compete with the really pricey balsamics. ★★

St Michael Italian Balsamic Vinegar. *£4.99 for 250ml*
Claims: "The vinegar is made from the Trebbiano grape, which is late harvested and naturally fermented and matured in wooden casks. The ageing process uses a succession of wooden casks. The liquor is blended with red wine to give its unique sweet and sour flavour, perfect for salads or cooking."
Verdict: Least full-bodied and sweetest of the supermarket own-labels, with a ferocity in flavour that was not immediately apparent from the nose. The flask did make it easy not to pour too many drops at a time. ★ ½

La Vecchia Dispensa Condimento Balsamico.
£36.59 for 40ml from Selfridges
Claims: "Traditional Italian Dressing Produced from Modenese grapes. Matured and refined in barrels of various woods in Castelvetro di Modena for 40 years."
Verdict: The boxed phial of vinegar was accompanied by a four-language, 64-page booklet, plus recipes including a balsamic aperitif. The vinegar itself was unctuous and rich, with only a few drops required at each use. The 40-year ageing may be taken with a pinch of salt. I think it only means that the battery of barrels from which the vinegar was drawn has been established 40 years. ★★★★★

Monari Federzoni Aceto Balsamico di Modena.
£8.75 for 0.5l from Harrods
Claims: "Dal 1912. Acidità 6 per cent." Labelling is in Italian and German only but the nutritional information is based on a "porzione" of 14g (34 portions per bottle), which is a lot more vinegar than I ever use at one sitting.
Verdict: A fairly light-bodied but fruity vinegar with some winey and honeyed scents adding interest though no great profundity. ★

MORE FOOD & DRINK IN the times magazine

Jonathan Meades visits Bilbao in Spain

plus

Jean-Christophe Novelli on making fruit and vegetable chutneys

Just spread it on a bagel

HOME COOKING

Sara Crowe, for ever known as the cream-cheese lady, really does enjoy eating it, as she told Joe Warwick

Although Sara Crowe does tire of being known as the "Philadelphia girl" or that "cheese-ad woman", she knows not to knock the lucrative advertising contract for the Kraft cream-cheese spread. It is, after all, her bread and butter or — in the words of the helium-voiced blonde character that she plays in the commercials — her bagel and cream cheese.

Surprisingly to those who do not know better, Ms Crowe, 30, is also a successful serious actress. She won an Olivier award for best supporting actress for her show-stealing performance alongside Joan Collins in the West End production of Noël Coward's *Private Lives*. Her many film and TV credits include the runaway hit film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. At the moment she can be seen on stage reprising the dizzy role that was first made famous by Marilyn Monroe in the film *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*.

The stage version puts quite a strain on Ms Crowe's voice — which, incidentally, is at least an octave lower than that of the woman in the cheese commercial. "I suck a ballon every night," she laughs. "At Regent's Park there was a strain on my voice because I was booming everything to compete with the aeroplanes, the birds and the wind."

She tries not to get irritated by the high-pitched cries of "lo-ve-ly" that the public showers on its cheese-lady. Her friend, the actress Margaret Courtenay, who died in 1996, helped her put it in perspective on one memorable occasion. "I was complaining about being the cheese-lady," recalls Ms Crowe, "and Margaret said, 'Don't worry, I used to be the Jersey Cow.' So I suppose I'm getting off quite lightly really."

The first five years of her life were spent travelling around the world. Ms Crowe's Australian father worked in the petrochemical industry and his work meant that his wife and their three daughters lived in various countries around the Caribbean and South America. Unfortunately, Ms Crowe cannot remember much of the exotic early years of her childhood. "By the time I was five we were living in Guildford in Surrey," she laments.

Despite the family's far-flung travels, her Scottish mother always stuck to what she knew best when it came to cooking. "She's a good traditional Scottish cook, my mum," says Ms Crowe. "We did eat a fair amount of porridge, of course, but our staple diet was things like stovies, which is mashed potatoes with onion and milk, a good Scottish recipe. It's like baby food, and I still love to eat it."

There was a cultural divide between the family's Scottish mother and Australian father when it came to food. "There is a bit of a conflict in my family because my father grew up on bacon and eggs and my mother was almost vegetarian," explains Ms Crowe. "I went my dad's route until I was 16 and then I went vegetarian too."

Her meat-loving father still does not comprehend what has happened. "He let me get on with it at the time, but he didn't understand it at all," she says. "He still thinks it's a stage I'm going through 14 years later.

"He says, 'Don't you fancy a bit of beef, love?' and he calls salad health food — 'Don't bring that health food near me,' he'll say."

She never found it hard to be a vegetarian. "I think bacon and sausages smell gorgeous," she confesses, "but I never want to eat them."

Like many others she found school dinners hard to digest, particularly on a Thursday. "That was liver-and-bacon day," she explains. "We used to wear these overalls with big pockets in the front. So I would stuff the liver in my overall pocket and then throw it out when I got home."

Ms Crowe loves her vegetables, but not celery. "I am convinced I am allergic to it," she says. "Every time I try some it makes me feel ill."

Her other food fear is rhubarb: "We were forced to eat rhubarb crumble at school and I can't stand it now." A moody teenager, she got interested in acting when her mother suggested that she take drama lessons. From there she went to drama school and, before she knew it, members of the public were shouting "lovely cheese-lady" at her.

Does she really like it spread on a bagel? "I do like it on a bagel ... on toast ... on ..." she says as the Kraft executives breath a sign of relief. "I had eaten it on and off before I started doing the campaign but I don't remember eating it when I was little, that was mostly potatoes and porridge."

These days she finds that she has to be careful what she eats and when she eats it, as it can have an adverse affect on her stage appeal. "To eat at 7pm is always a disaster, because it tends to repeat on you all the way through the performance," she says, before adding with a giggle, "and that can get nasty."



Sara Crowe: "To eat at 7pm is a disaster — it repeats on you during a performance"



The cheesy grin was there even in her youth

Joanna Pitman



There is still some time to go before Alice fully grows into her role as the Mr Bean of the infant world. But she showed promising talent as we set off for Italy and it became apparent that one small baby in a frilly sun bonnet can cause havoc to Gatwick's flight schedules. Alitalia's cabin staff, otherwise an utterly professional lot, seemed to go to pieces at her gurgle. And the Italian passengers were just as bad. Had they never seen a baby before? While others pushed angrily past, the Italians blocked the aisle in a festival of fussing and poking fingers. Was she going to be too hot or too cold? What about a head rest? In the mass of humanity we got separated. I could just see Alice's face looking over Giles's shoulder, a pale little oval bobbing up and down in an ocean of heads, straining to keep me in sight. By the time the aisle blockage was cleared, we had missed our take off and had to wait another 40 minutes.

● THE Italians get very silly over babies. With the lowest birth rate in Europe they are obviously a bit of a novelty. Italian middle class women apparently now won't start a family until they are well into their thirties and are sure they can provide their offspring with all the trampolines, doll houses and mink coats they could ever want. As a result most of them stop after one, bankrupted. An English friend, recently travelling in Italy with his wife and four children, found himself being appraised on a bus by an elderly nun. As she began counting his brood, uno, duo, tre, quattro . . . with increasingly wide-eyed approval, she gave him a broad smile as if to give him an honorary place in the nation's highest stud ranking. High commendation indeed from one of God's representatives on earth.

● AFTER 24 hours of mother and infant stupor on arrival, we began a greedy examination of our Tuscan castello. We toured the grotto (liked the shells and the mirrors, not sure about the smell), we sauntered up and down the garden terraces sniffing mingling aromas of lemons and bursting figs. We inspected bodies ranged around the pool, toasting their navels, brains at ease. And after a milky al fresco lunch, Alice repaired to the grand Galleria where she lay under a splendid painted ceiling, feeling very much at home gazing up at the chubby cherubs and bare-breasted women perched on fluffy clouds where a variety of Gods and their gangs were having a celestial party. When Sir George Sitwell bought the castle in 1909, it was occupied by 260 Tuscan peasants. When he finally got rid of them several years later, he restored the artwork throughout the castle and lived there virtually alone until the Second World War when he fled to Switzerland. At the end of the war, Eric Linklater arrived as part of an Allied liberation force, burst into the Galleria and, being an officer educated in art history, declared to his bemused sergeant, "That's a bloody good copy of the Prima Vera!" He went a bit closer. "Good Heavens! It is the Prima Vera." And there, stacked up in rows, were most of the paintings from the Uffizi. The pictures had been well looked after by the Nazis apart from one oval portrait which had been turned into a card table.

● THE quiet rural rhythms of this small Tuscan castello community, unchanged for decades were, I fear, rudely upset upon Alice's arrival. Every morning, her pre-dawn demands for food would set off the cockerel an hour or so early. The cockerel's crows would get the dogs barking which in turn woke up the bell ringer, who would rush off to ring the church bells. This got the farmer up and onto his harvesting machine and the din of that finally woke the local lads who slid back into their Vespas and started buzzing around the castle again, too hung over to read their watches. Although we mainly busied ourselves each day gazing at cyprus trees and vineyards in the middle distance, we did manage a couple of outings. Lorenzo de Medici's villa at Poggio a Caiano scored well with Alice — more chubby cherubs and nice big bosoms on ceilings. But the monastery outside Florence was less popular. For a start, the monk guiding us round, though very friendly, spoke no goo goo. Then there was the Italian mamma, who kept sidling up to poke Alice and shout at me. "She's far too hot in the sling! Really! You should get her out of it. And her outfit's too tight. What about socks? Her toes will freeze. And as for that skin . . . Oh dear. You should be treating her with such and such . . . Anyway, where's her chiu-chiu?" This I took to mean 'dummy'. When I explained we didn't have one, she finally raised her eyes heavenwards as if to say "Hopeless. All those mistakes, and she has a middle class hang up about dummies." Poor Alice. I wonder if she'd prefer the attentions of an Italian mother.

How to watch over the kids from work

The 'online nursery' allows parents to log on and keep an eye on their children, and their carers, live on a PC. Terri Paddock reports

ASHLEY COMBES



A working mother watches her child at nursery from her PC in the office. Supporters of online nursery surveillance say it offers parents peace of mind

When superstar Jodie Foster splashed out last month on a high-tech security system, an "inter-safety-net", for her newborn son, Charlie, car engineer Jason Weaver and his wife Theresa, a dental technician, could well understand. Their 22-month-old daughter, Savanna, has been similarly monitored in her Atlanta-based Kids R Kids day-care centre for the past three months. Several times a day, Jason, his wife and his mother log on to an Internet site where they can catch Savanna at play — and ensure that she is being properly looked after.

British parents here can obtain the same peace of mind when the UK's first online day care centre launches next month in central London. The Crawford Kindergarten is already attracting considerable attention: it will be opened on September 14 by Education Minister Kim Howells.

Once the kindergarten is fully operational, the 40 children and their carers in the kindergarten will be under the constant surveillance of Internet cameras throughout the facility. These cameras capture images of the children and beam them direct to a web site which parents can log on to, using regularly changing passwords, and watch them.

While it may sound like a brave new development, the Internet nursery has been a long time in coming, especially in the world of the web. In 1997, these nurseries were predicted to become commonplace by 1998. They haven't.

ParentNet, the company that pioneered the concept and packages it for nurseries as a product called KinderCam, was founded in 1996. President Seth Steinberg admits that they expected an explosion of interest: instead, it's been slow going. Two years on, they have just 20 centres with KinderCam across the the US, but he says another 30 contracts have been signed.

Here, too, Crawford Kindergarten is not the first to try out the technology. Several others have done so over the past year. So why aren't there more online nurseries on offer? Primarily, it's a matter of cost. Jodie Foster reportedly spent £300,000 on her system. While that may be peanuts to a film star, it's not to a nursery which, to get going, will spend a minimum of about £5,000 on Internet cameras, hardware, software and connectivity.

Inevitably, these costs are passed on to parents, either through a subscription or fees. Crawford Kindergarten costs £200 per week, compared to an average London fee of £120 (and much less around the country). This makes it an exclusive service. "The average parent already struggles to pay childcare fees," says Stephanie Beer, managing director of Childcare Solutions, a helpline for working parents.

In addition to cost, the technology itself can be daunting for nurseries, particularly in this country where ParentNet is not yet offering its easy switch-on-and-go package. The Crawford solution is self-made, concocted after considerable time and negotiations with suppliers. This can be a major technical undertaking and one which was not intended for small companies such as nurseries.

Axis Communications, the Swedish network and web appliances company which manufactures the web camera and server at the heart of the Internet nursery, developed the technology for the industrial sector. It was aimed at companies who needed to monitor remote sites — such as factory floors or car parks — and who already had large, existing computer networks and expert staff on site to maintain them. "Experience has shown that it has not worked out for most nurseries," says Brian Flasck, managing director of Axis UK. Consequently, the company does not actively market its products to this sector.

Even once technology and cost are overcome, other worries remain, particularly in terms of security. Although nursery sites are password protected, how much can that guard against computer hackers and paedophiles? Proponents say the risk is minimal as no location details of the nursery are provided and children are never shown in compromising positions. Nevertheless, the thought of anyone untoward viewing their child is unsettling for many parents.

Childcare experts also say there is the possibility of straining the critical relationship between parent and nursery staff. Stephanie Beer says the service may encourage some parents to watch instead of talking to carers about their child's progress. This could undermine the relationship and make staff increasingly uneasy about being watched. "It might make staff feel insecure and lead to increased staff turnover, which isn't necessarily the best thing for the child."

For some staff, the cameras may represent mistrust or a lack of confidence in their abilities. Certainly, comparisons could be drawn with the hidden cameras, or "teddy bear" surveillance, used on nannies and au pairs, a practice which has became popular since the Louise Woodward affair.

"If you're going to bring a child into a nursery, it doesn't matter whether you can view them or not, you have to have that trust, that knowledge that you've put your child into the best possible care," says Susan Bingham, managing director of Hopes and Dreams nursery in Islington, north London. Bingham tried the service for six months but abandoned it, mainly because parents said it wasn't necessary.

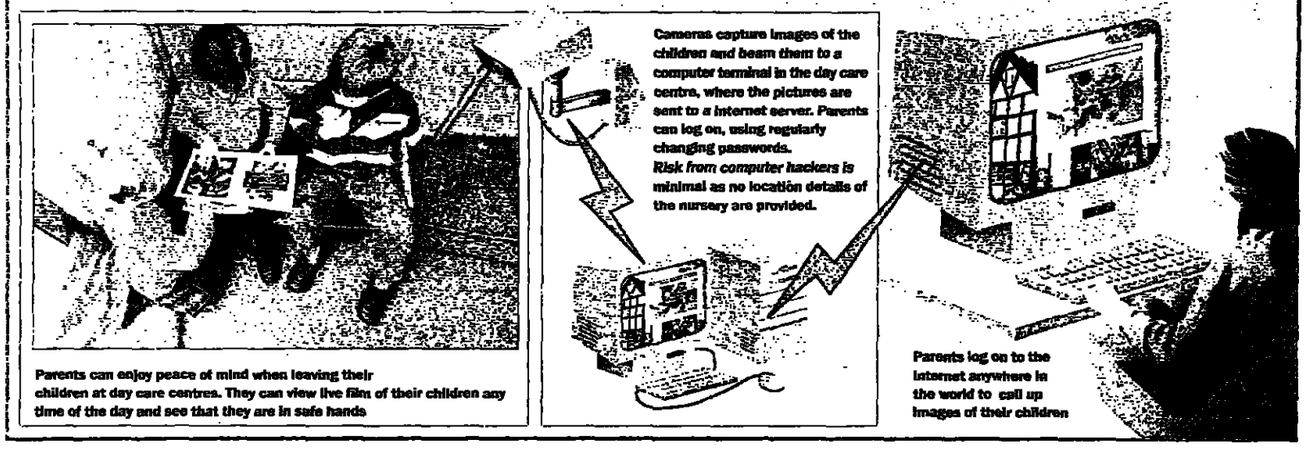
But Seth Steinberg believes this is missing the point. He says KinderCam is not about protection but participation, giving time-impoverished parents more access to their children's lives.

Despite its rocky start, proponents believe the concept will take off, becoming the norm in private daycare by 2001. Uptake among parents exposed to it indicates they may be right. Of parents registered with KinderCam nurseries, 68 per cent use it regularly.

Jason Weaver visits his daughter, Savanna, via his PC at work, at least three times a day. "I'm glad I have the chance to experience what Savanna's doing during the day. Just seeing her on the screen makes me feel good. If something bad happens at work, or I'm feeling down, I'll just log on and there she is. It's great."

● *Crawford Kindergarten (0171-723 9901)*

HOW THE 'INTER-SAFETY-NET' WORKS



When opting out is the only way forward

What can you do when the local school is in chaos? Fred Redwood visits a Devon village that found its own solution

It is a dreadful prospect for any parent. The nearest school is renowned for its poor behaviour and low academic standards but there is nowhere else for your child to go. This was the problem facing a community in Hartland, Devon, 16 years ago. Their children were being transported 46 miles daily from their village to a huge urban comprehensive which was, in education parlance, "going through a bad patch". The children brought home stories of mayhem in the classrooms. Deeply worried, the parents in Hartland took action. They opened their own school.

The Small School is quite unlike any other. With just 39 pupils, it occupies a converted Methodist chapel. The main hall of the building is used for drama and as a dining area: classrooms and a science laboratory spread back from the vestries. There is a welcoming scruffiness about the place — tatty carpets, battered bookshelves, all the children in jeans and sweatshirts. In fact, it isn't like a school at all. There are no raised voices, no bells, no naughty children standing outside classrooms.

All of which makes a cheery picture of young village folk getting along nicely. But these are the competitive 1990s and questions must be asked. Does this home-built school get results? The headteacher, Caroline Walker, believes it does. "Last year was unexceptional and 67 per cent of our children gained five or more GCSEs at A-star to C grades," she says. "This is well above the national average. Our inspection report praised the children's behaviour and said we were an 'informal but orderly' community."

The Small School may, at first, seem a haphazard, bohemian place but much of the philosophy behind it is grounded in sound common sense. One of its founders, Colin Hodgetts, has firm views on the curriculum and the role of the teacher. "It's quite ludicrous that most mainstream schools encourage children to take ten or 11 GCSE subjects — mainly to enhance their standing in league tables. Universities don't require that number of passes, so why bother? Here, all children take a minimum of five subjects and a maximum of seven. That lets them spend their extra time striving for excellence in their favourite areas of study.

"We have proved that just five teachers, with part-time help, can cover the necessary subjects. Enormous changes are taking place in education, largely due to the new technology. There's no desperate need for the teacher to be a subject expert nowadays. One former pupil is studying Russian at Glasgow University. His interest started when we bought a BBC Russian Course for him."

Perhaps the most imaginative tangent to the curriculum at the Small School is the time given to "Special Weeks". All teachers know that the second half of the summer term is largely a waste of time. So at the Small School they abandon academic subjects and undertake a project — usually involving creative writing.

This year the school made a film. Colin Davis, who wrote *Blake's 7*, ran a course on script writing. Then, professional film editor, Mark Dewshat, and lighting director, Bernard Hedges, introduced the children to their respective crafts. Everybody was involved and the film was "premiered" at the Plough Arts Centre, Torrington. A visiting lecturer in media studies said it was the standard of work of first-year university students. To celebrate their success, the children took a cycling holiday in Brittany.

The Small School at Hartland is one of 14 to be run by parents in this country. It is surprisingly easy, in fact, to set up your own school. If you contact the Department for Education and Employment it will tell you the requirements.

Start-up capital to buy a suitable premises will be quite considerable, so it's probably best to go into partnership with a group of like-minded people. Fund-raising can contribute to the coffers — in which case you must register with the Charities Commission. At the Small School parents pay a nominal sum of £170 a term, on top of which guardians covenant £2,000 a year. The other third of the budget comes from charitable trusts.

● *For advice on setting up a small school contact Fiona Carnie, Human Scale Education, 96 Carlingcott, near Bath BA2 8AW (01972 510709).*

● *A one-day introductory workshop, "Setting up a Small School", will be held in Bath on Saturday, October 10. Contact HSE for details.*

HOW TO SET UP YOUR OWN SCHOOL

- Gather a group of people sharing a similar approach to education.
- Inform the Department for Education and Employment of your plans and request an information pack.
- Buy suitable premises with the guidance of the fire officer.
- Register with the Charities Commission.
- Recruit suitable teaching staff by advertising in *The Times Educational Supplement*.
- If the teachers cannot cover the full curriculum, contact the Open School at Dartington for information about "distance learning".

APEX



Staff and students of the Small School in Hartland, North Devon

A long-lost story from the pen which unleashed a monster

There weren't many happy endings for Mary Shelley. This story, lost for nearly 170 years and now published for the first time, was an exception

It is not everyday that you discover a new story by the author of *Frankenstein*. And it is not everyday that you publish one.

This long-lost story about a long-lost child shows Mary Shelley imagining a childhood with a happy ending. It was not easy for her: by 22, when she wrote the story, she had she endured sorrows as painful as any of the monsters of her imagination.

At 16 she had devastated her family by eloping with the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley who abandoned his pregnant wife Harriet and baby daughter for her. Their happiness was short. Mary's first child, born prematurely, died. Shelley, at loggerheads with his family, his wife's family and Mary's family, was deep in debt. In 1816, Mary's half-sister Fanny committed suicide. Then Harriet drowned herself. Shelley married Mary but failed to win custody of his two children by Harriet. He and Mary left for Italy in 1818 with their two children. Over the following four years the Shelley's two children died and Mary slumped into a depression.

This catalogue of lost children was the background to *Maurice, or The Fisher's Cot*, itself a story of a lost child finally reunited with his grieving parents.

The story was written in August 1820 for Laura, nicknamed Laurette, the 11-year-old daughter of the Shelley's friend Lady Mountcashell, when both families were living in social exile in Tuscany. Mary sent a copy to her father William Godwin in the hope that he might publish it. He declined, saying that at only 39 handwritten pages the children's story was too short. And that, for more than a century and a half, was that.

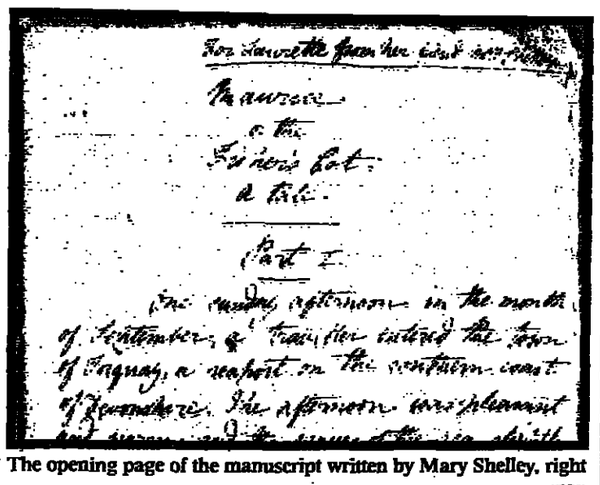
The story languished forgotten in a dusty boxroom in the Tuscan palazzo belonging to the descendants of Laura's sister, Nerina. Until last year, when Cristina Dazzi, a member of the family, was going through family papers in an old wooden chest. The handwritten words "alla Signora Shelley" and "For Laurette from her friend Mrs Shelley" alerted her. She consulted Catherine Payling, curator of the Keats-Shelley Museum in Rome, who suggested she talk to the writer Claire Tomalin, an expert on the English Romantics and author of *Shelley and His World*.

Such an extraordinary and unexpected discovery had to be authenticated at once. Ms Tomalin flew to Tuscany, with a commission from *The Times* to report on the find. She met Cristina Dazzi and examined the manuscript. The handwriting was Mary Shelley's, the watermark matched the paper used by the Shelleys in 1820, the provenance was impeccable: *Maurice, or The Fisher's Cot* was indisputably genuine, an unknown work by the author of *Frankenstein*.

"Although it is written for a child it is written in a formal way, like a tiny three-volume novel," Ms Tomalin told *The Times* after she had examined the manuscript. "Something that is characteristic of stories like *Frankenstein* is that it is told by several narrators. I was particularly struck by the melancholy of it."

ANGUS CLARKE





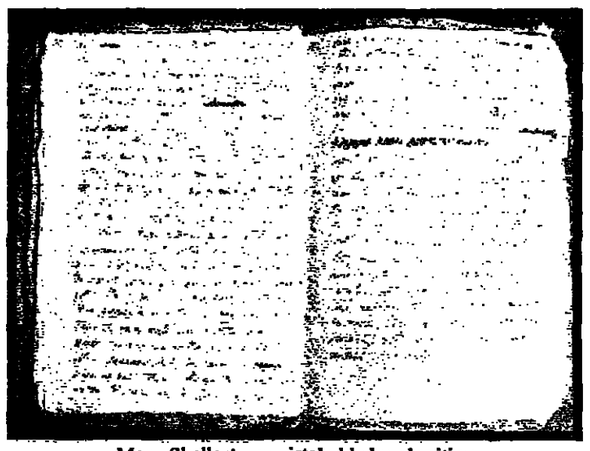
The opening page of the manuscript written by Mary Shelley, right

KOBAL

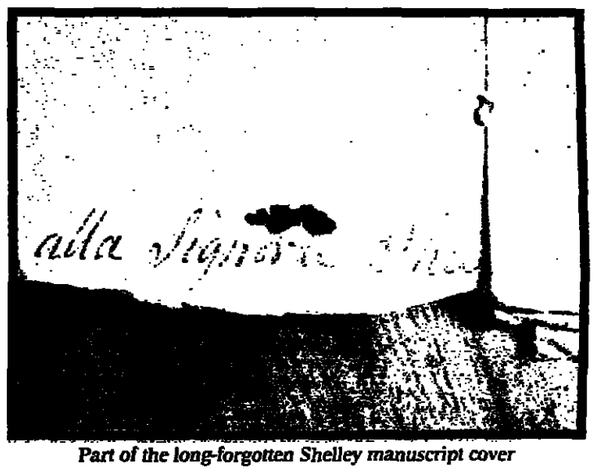


Boris Karloff in the 1931 film of *Frankenstein*





Mary Shelley's unmistakable handwriting



Part of the long-forgotten Shelley manuscript cover

"When I was five and twenty my kind father sent me abroad to Asia, Italy and Greece to visit the remains of the old temples that still exist, and I passed five years in this happy manner, dwelling among foreign nations, often in desert places where the people do not live by sowing and reaping corn and taking care of farms, as they do here, but depend upon hunting for their livelihood, leaving their native villages for months together in search of game, and living a wild life among the woods and mountains, while their wives and daughters remain at home spinning their own clothes, sitting in the open air, where the winters are so mild that they have neither frost or snow.

"When I returned to England I applied to business, and being a good architect I soon became rich. When I thought I had money enough I gave up my business and applied myself to country labours and all kinds of study, which I liked better than building churches and bridges where the people have too little taste or too little money to allow them to be built in the manner I wished.

"I married at this time a lady, whom you will soon see, my dear Maurice, and then you will know how wise and good she is. Soon after our marriage we had a little boy of whom we were dotingly fond. All our joy was in watching this little creature, who was as beautiful and good as it was possible to be. When he was two years old we made a journey during the summer and stayed for a month at Ilfracombe, a seaport more than fifty miles' distance from this place, and here a misfortune happened to us since which we have never been contented. It is now eleven years ago, but I can never think of that time without being unhappy.

"We used often to ride out, my wife and I, and a servant with our baby; and when we came to a pretty place we used to leave the nurse and child with the carriage while we took long walks in the country. One day we rode until we came to the banks of a very pretty river: and telling the nurse to wait for us, we walked on for several miles, enjoying the pleasant weather, listening to the singing of the birds in the elm trees which hung over the river, and watching the little insects with wings of purple, green and gold that flew on the water.

"When we returned we were dreadfully frightened to find the nurse asleep among some hay and no child near her. We awoke the woman and she became pale with fear and trembled all over when she found the child gone: since he had gone to sleep in her arms, and she, without thinking of the danger, and lulled to sleep by the sun, had at last fallen asleep also. The first thing we did was to run to the river; — but I will not describe to you, my little friend, the great grief we felt during this search. We did not find our child, or see any remains of him near the water; on the contrary we found one of his shoes in a field about a mile from the river, and this made us think that perhaps he was stolen. We spent many months in searching the whole country, but in vain, we could not hear any tidings of our dear, lost boy.

Lady Mountcashell, a friend of the Shelleys

"For my part I have never given up hope that I shall one day find him again, for I always felt convinced that he was not drowned. So every year I spend two months in Devonshire going over the whole county looking for him. I dress myself meanly that I may enter the cottages with greater freedom and make enquiries of the country people in a familiar manner; I walk about from village to village, and never pass a solitary cottage without looking at the children, and asking questions concerning them.

"A fortnight ago I passed by a cottage about five miles from Ilfracombe, at the door of which stood a woman crying and wringing her hands; I stopped and asked her what was the matter, and she told me that her husband had died two days before, and that her only son had been away a year and a half and she did not know what had become of him. I tried to console her, and told her that I also was unhappy and had lost my only child while a baby and had never found him again. I then related to her my misfortune and was much surprised to find her more distressed than before, and when I described to her the great grief of my wife, she cried out, "I am the cause of this! I am the wicked woman who stole your child!" I started at these words, and as soon as I could speak I asked her what had become of my poor dear boy. She then began to cry again, and said that it was him she lamented when she told me that she had not seen her only son for nearly two years. She cried so much and appeared so distressed that I was obliged to spend almost an hour before I could console her, and then she told me how all had happened.

"Her husband had been a sailor and they had lived several years together and had had no children: he was a bad man, and would beat and reproach her for not having a child, which made her very unhappy, and she thought that she would be perfectly happy if heaven would bless her with a son. At length once when her husband went on a long voyage, she wrote to him a month after his departure and told him that she was with child. He stayed away a long time, and she continued to write and to tell falsehoods, how the child was born and was thriving; and she did this foolishly without thinking of the consequences, or what her husband would say when he returned and found no child. He was a sailor on board a king's ship, and getting a wound in a battle which disabled him for a long time he wrote to her who was then living in London, to go down to his native Ilfracombe, for that he would leave his ship and go and live there the rest of his days.



Laurette, for whom the story was written in 1820

"She went down with a sorrowful heart, not knowing what she should say about her pretended child: and, not liking to go among his relations, who all expected to see a fine stout boy about two years old, she took a mean lodging in a town some miles off and went by a false name. She passed two months in a very unhappy state of mind, strolling about the country and not able to determine as to what she would do, when one day for our great misfortune she determined to walk towards Ilfracombe to find out whether her husband had arrived, and on her way she found our poor baby asleep in the arms of his careless nurse.

"One wicked thing brings on another; and she who had deceived her husband, and for two years written a number of falsehoods, and had come to have the habit of feeling guilty and wrong, now made up her mind to steal this child, not caring for the unhappiness of its parents. She took him gently out of the nurse's arms, and ran with him across the fields towards the town where she had been living for the last two months.

But when she came near the town she hid the child under some straw in a barn and went as fast as she could to her lodgings. She paid for them and taking her bundle of clothes she went back to the child and hid herself in the barn all day. At night she began her journey. She resolved to go Plymouth and wait for her husband, whose ship was expected in that port, and thus to quit the country near Ilfracombe until her theft should be forgotten. She walked all day and hid herself at night for fear of being discovered. She burned the child's good clothes and made it others out of her own, preserving only a little coral necklace with his Christian name engraved on the clasp and the remaining shoe, whose fellow we found in the field and which we have ever kept with great affection. She lived six months at Plymouth before her husband arrived and then they went together and settled themselves in the cottage, where I found them. The woman soon loved our poor boy as if he had been her own and took all possible care of him — caressing and tending on him with the tenderness of a mother.

"But people who do that which they ought not to do seldom find that good comes from the crimes they commit which they expect. Our good boy had been accustomed to delicate fare and gentle nursing; and whether it was that he was now fed poorly and neglected (not through unkindness, but because she had not leisure to give him the attention to which he had been accustomed with us), whether it were on these accounts I know not, but our little Henry became sickly and delicate, and lost that fine bloom which first tempted her to the wicked action of stealing him. Her husband, who was a bad man and who had before grumbled that he had no child, now became more cross than ever, saying that the sickly brat would never come to good, and that he was obliged to maintain him by the sweat of his brow when he would never be able to do the like for him when he was old.

"The woman then said to me: — 'I have been very miserable as well as wicked: for not only I felt great repentance at having taken this baby from his parents, but I found my husband unkinder than ever, and that instead of loving, he perfectly disliked the poor child. Besides the dear fellow lost his health and although the best creature in the world and the most willing and clever, yet he could do no hard work, and often had fevers and other illnesses when my husband grudged the doctor, and I used to sit crying by his bedside thinking that if his rich parents had still kept him he would not lie without help on his sickbed.

"As he grew older my husband grew unkinder and sometimes beat him because he could not work, and treated him in so cruel a manner that I dare not relate to you who are his father, so one day Henry (for so I called him as

NPG

Mary eloped with Percy Bysshe Shelley aged 16

by his broken words I found his parents had named him) came to me, and told me that farmer Jackson had promised to get work for him, and that he was determined to go and try if he could not gain his own livelihood. I cried bitterly, but could not alter his purpose, though then I would have given all I had in the world to find out who his rich parents were, that I might restore him. I gave him my blessing and he went away and I have never heard of him since!'

"I will not tire you, my little friend, with the account of my walks and anxieties for this last fortnight: during which I have been employed in going all over Devonshire tracing my lost child: my labours have been unsuccessful. I am now going to return to Dame Smithson to ask whether he has returned to her. This is my story: do you consent to come and live with me? If I never find my darling boy you shall be a son to me, and if I do find him . . ."

Maurice had listened to this relation very attentively, and near the end his eyes had streamed with tears and he showed every sign of interest and impatience: and now when the traveller said these words he threw himself into his arms and sobbed out — "I am your son! Daddy Smithson is not my father! I am your lost boy!" — And then he told him how he had always considered Dame Smithson his mother, and how kind to him and fond of him she was: and how her husband had made him perfectly miserable so that he had determined never to go home again until he should be able to earn his bread for himself. He said that he had called himself Maurice because he was afraid that the cruel man whom he thought his father might come to that part of the country and find him out and beat and ill-use him as he used to do at home.

Now nothing could be happier than the traveller and his dear son as they sat together by the seaside, talking about what they would do and the joy of his poor mother when she should see him again. Henry cried for joy when he thought of the happy life they should lead, reading delightful books, living with a kind father and mother, and having no care upon earth but that of obeying them and making them happy. They went that very evening to Torquay, and hiring a chaise they rode towards the traveller's home; and never rested until they arrived and Henry was in his mother's arms.

"I am the cause of this! I am the woman who stole your child!" And then she told me how all had happened . . .'

● *Taken from* Maurice, or The Fisher's Cot *by Mary Shelley, introduction by Claire Tomalin, published by Viking at £9.99. Times readers can buy a copy for £8.99 by calling* The Times Bookshop *on 0990 134459.*

Some mowers just cut the lawn, others collect the cuttings and many mulch, so choose one to suit your needs, says **David Stokes**



The judges of the six machines were led by Nigel Davies, head groundsman at Sheffield Park in Sussex, left, and the mowers which were tested on paddock grass and the lawns of the historic garden

Cool runnings with ride-on cutters

A ride-on mower does cease to be an indulgence when one's lawn is more than a third of an acre. A ride-on mower, as distinct from a lawn tractor, has only one function: to cut grass. Six ride-ons were taken to Sheffield Park in Sussex and were put to the test by Nigel Davies, the head groundsman, who, with his team, gave them a few tasks to do. They tried the machines out on paddock grass and on the posher lawns of this historic garden. We asked them to look for ease of operation, quality of cut, grass collection and, importantly, comfort.

Some of the machines swept the grass into a collector and others mulched it up (that is, the mower almost granulates the grass cuttings and blows them down into the grass where it rots and feeds the turf). Mr Davies uses two mulching mowers made by Ransomes that cost more than £10,000 to cut the grass at Sheffield Park, so he is a firm believer in this principle. It does not suit everybody; some prefer to compost their cuttings.

The price range of the mowers in the survey was between £1,000 and £3,000. There is a lot of difference in machines in this range but we took notice of the price in the equation. These prices are not cast in stone, there are discounts to be had, so do shop around.

COUNTAX RIDER

Price: £1,900 (with sweeper set)
Engine and size: 11hp Briggs & Stratton
Deck size: 760mm
Cutting heights min/max: 12mm–75mm
Weight: 180kg
Collector capacity: 200 litres rear discharge
Star rating ★ ★ ★

Comments
This is a rear collection mower equipped with a unique powered brush collector (optional extra) that can lift wet cuttings and leaves. Easy to drive with smooth gear changes and well-placed control levers and pedals. Reasonably tight turning circle.

HONDA HF 1121 S

Price: £1,799
Engine and size: 11hp
Deck size: 710mm
Cutting heights min/max: 30mm–80mm
Weight: 160kg
Collector capacity: 170 litres rear discharge
Star rating ★ ★

Comments
Although it is extremely easy to operate and looks good, the Honda was a disappointment to the band of judges because of its very small wheels, especially at the front, and the feeling that it was a little delicate even for domestic use. That aside, it did cut the grass well and was efficient in its collection.

AL-KO RIDE-ON 700

Price: £1,119.95
Engine and size: 6hp Tecumseh
Deck size: 550mm
Cutting heights min/max: 3mm–9.5mm
Weight: 135kg
Collector capacity: 170 litres rear discharge
Star rating ★ ★ ★

Comments
Cheapest in the line-up. Its main attraction is its rugged simplicity. However, it lacks refinement, with high vibration, poor ergonomics and harsh acceleration. Will fit the bill if you can put up with its foibles. Collector can be emptied while sitting down but cutting height cannot be adjusted.

HUSQVARNA RIDER 70 - 15 B10

Price: £2,800
Engine and size: 15hp
Deck size: 1.118m
Cutting heights min/max: 35mm–80mm
Weight: 240kg
Collector capacity: nil. Mulch mower
Star rating ★ ★ ★

Comments
The highest priced mower of the group. First impression is that it is terribly complicated, but further investigation proves that it is easy to use with most of the controls operated with the right hand. Cuts well with the powerful 15hp engine and has the tightest turning circle of the six.

YARDMAN BEETLE

Price: £1,295
Engine and size: 8hp Briggs & Stratton
Deck size: 700mm
Cutting heights min/max: 20mm–125mm
Weight: 108kg
Collector capacity: 90 litres under seat
Star rating ★ ★ ★

Comments
Well-liked by the judges and considered the most versatile of the low-cost mowers, can be used as a mulcher, collector or side discharge. Collector is uniquely inside the machine but is soon filled up and you have to get off to empty it. Space-age looks and relatively inexpensive.

STIGA VILLA CLASSIC

Price: £2,220.75
Engine size: 8.5hp Briggs & Stratton
Deck size: 850mm
Cutting heights min/max: 28mm–80mm
Weight: 150kg
Collector capacity: nil. Mulch mower
Star rating ★ ★ ★ ★

Comments
Most favoured mower, sturdy and has the air of a professional mower with the price of a domestic. Easy and comfortable to use but controls could be more ergonomically sited. Manoeuvrable. High quality build with a good finish, easy to maintain with access to all the moving parts.

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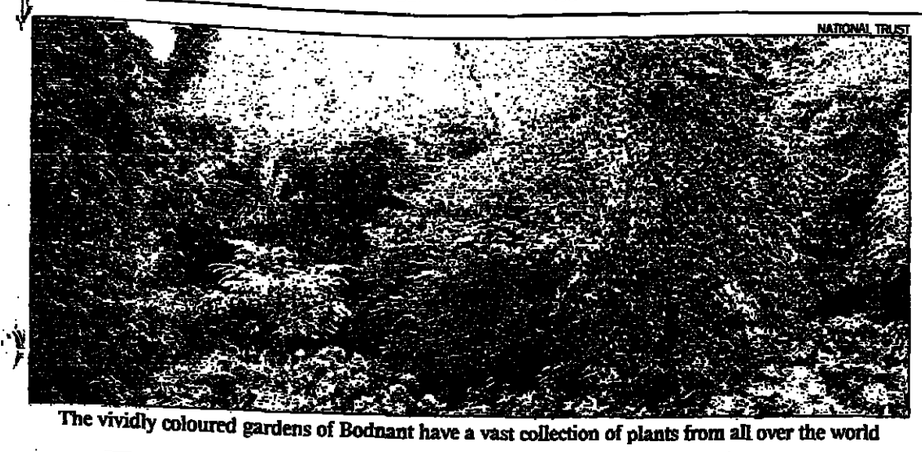
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The vividly coloured gardens of Bodnant have a vast collection of plants from all over the world

In the garden of my fathers

Brenda Parry meets the third Mr Puddle to take charge at Bodnant



The brilliant Laburnum Walk

A garden should change constantly, but the one golden rule of Martin Puddle, head gardener of Bodnant — and one that all gardeners should remember — is never to replace anything unless it is going to improve the garden.

"I was born here and although I worked elsewhere, I knew and loved this garden long before I took over in 1982. I never had any intention of 'making my mark'. I simply wanted to continue to develop the process of opening new vistas and gradually making changes that, once made, would blend perfectly with the whole," he says.

Despite one of the wettest summers ever in North Wales, Mr Puddle's herbaceous borders are yielding pride of place to Bodnant's autumn mantle, with its banks of blue hydrangeas and the national collection of eucryphias trees — some of them 40ft high — festooned with white blossoms.

Mr Puddle is also flourishing: next month he will be admitted as a fellow of the Institute of Horticulture "in recognition of his high standard of distinction achieved in the profession". It was natural for Mr Puddle to follow in his father's footsteps as head gardener at Bodnant: after all, his father succeeded his grandfather.

He is happy to point out a tree here and a shrub there planted by his grandfather; it is all part of the family's horticultural skills that have made Bodnant the magnificent garden it is today.

It would be easy for Mr Puddle mark III simply to maintain the magnificent 90-acre garden caring for the collections of rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas and magnolias for which the garden has a worldwide reputation, but he is constantly planning new projects.

"I like to be on my own in the garden when I am planning something new. I never draw plans but visualise them, relying on my landscaping skills and knowledge of the plants, trees and shrubs that I am going to use," he says.

Landscaping is an art form all of its own and with the growing exposure given to gardens on television *and in the media, Mr Puddle is* delighted that homeowners are taking garden design seriously.

He emphasises that a garden, however large or small, should appear to go on for ever with distant points drawing the eye ever onwards. Even here, overlooking the Conwy estuary and in the shadow of Snowdonia, such vistas have to be contrived by man — nature allowed a free rein would quickly obliterate the careful landscaping.

As we look across the dell, banks of rhododendrons and azaleas of every hue hug the steeply falling ground to the river and waterfall below. Our eyes are drawn to a splash of colour glimpsed through *the trees on a distant hillside.* Mr Puddle and his team of 18 have harnessed nature to create a work of art. But here he raises his hand and says: "Now blot out the sky and you have nothing."

A garden, however small, must have a focal point and it helps to have an intimate knowledge of how plants will develop. Mr Puddle likes to stand distant from any new planting and tell his gardeners by walkie-talkie precisely where to place things. If a new tree is involved he will have a pole erected and view it from all angles before deciding on the exact spot.

However, Mr Puddle the artist loves to paint pictures with colour using the bark of trees and evergreens as the matrix, with spring bulbs followed by dazzling camellias, rhododendrons and azaleas.

"Colour is a very personal thing but colour co-ordination is vital to *achieve the right picture. I prefer*

IOLO WILLIAMS



Martin Puddle at work: "I never draw plans, I visualise them, relying on my knowledge of the plants"

the pastel shades that rhododendrons and azaleas come in. I take everything into account — colour, *leaf size, shrub size and, very importantly,* the colours of the bark.

"The cinnabranium hybrid rhododendrons have a wonderful glaucous-blue foliage, but we have hundreds of rhododendrons from the *tree-like plants of the macabeanum* to the dwarf varieties," he explains. Rhododendrons must have acid soil and shallow rooting to achieve *good growth and dead-heading is* recommended for the best flower production year on year. While they are still at their best in Bodnant, the fabulous laburnum arch comes into bloom (for about two weeks — end of May, beginning of June), but even when it is not flowering, climbing shrubs festoon the nearby walls and small rhododendrons peek between the trees.

If in horticultural circles Bodnant is best known for its flowering shrubs and trees, Mr Puddle is anxious to point out that it is a garden for all seasons, an aspect he is constantly developing with rare summer flowering wall shrubs such as the *Fremontodendron californicum* and herbaceous borders to give increased colour from July to September. But as Mr Puddle uses his master strokes to create focal points, he claims there are no defining lines at Bodnant that tie the garden to any particular era.

"Any alteration with planting must be linked in some way with what is visually in sight of it or surrounding it — if visitors feel after two or three years that it has always been that way then we have done it well," he says.

His aims have always *been to create one large* co-ordinated garden rather than lots of small gardens. "Nothing is created in my office. I go out there and visualise how it will look through the year." Last year, Mr Puddle and his team completed 32 new projects including rebuilding the beautiful pergola that collapsed in the winter frost. "Our plans are never too detailed. We build on ideas as we are planting and that is the way gardens should be developed."

As autumn comes with its glorious shades of foliage and berries, Mr Puddle will start again to develop more borders and new vistas for generations to come.

● *Bodnant Garden was bequeathed to the National Trust by the second Lord Aberconwy in 1949 and is open to the public daily between the middle of March and October 31. Admission, adults £4.60; children, £2.30. Ring 01492 650731 for a catalogue.*

WEEKEND TIPS

■ Make cuttings of roses, using pieces 9in long and finger thick. Set them two-thirds into the ground in a narrow trench lined with sand, in half-shade. They *will root during the spring.*
■ Sow lawn seed into fine soil which has been lightly dressed with fertiliser. Roll lightly when 1in high, and when it has grown again top it off lightly.
■ When frost threatens, pick outdoor tomatoes and ripen the last fruits indoors. Ripen off melons in frames by keeping the temperature up.

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Philip Hook, TV's glamorous antiques expert, has a city and a country garden, says **Jane Owen**

GIL ALLEN



Philip Hook enjoys an "idyllic breakfast" on the terrace overlooking his small Chelsea garden. He works here, too: "I look out while I'm writing and it can seem almost rural"

Hooked on his stadium



Philip, aged 5, with father, Ross



The paved garden looking towards the house and first-floor terrace



Philip with his mother, Ruth

ME AND MY GARDEN: PHILIP HOOK

Philip Hook is the glamorous one on the *Antiques Road Show* — 6ft plus, tousled hair, clever, urbane, director of Sotheby's, a novelist and soccer blue who recently pulled off a coup in the art world by getting £20 million for a painting by Claude Monet.

Appropriately, the trellis around his small Chelsea garden is entwined with wistaria. But that is as far as Giverney similarities go. "I've always seen the garden primarily as a sports stadium," he says, and maintains that his interest in the subject extends as far as cutting grass.

His Dutch wife, Angelique, says he likes to use his "chopper". She is referring to the clearance work he does around their rented cottage in Kent but, for a split second, I mistakenly think this is to do with the Bad Sex award Mr Hook won for his second novel, *The Stonebreakers*. The award has done him no harm.

"I felt it was rather eminent. It took Melvyn Bragg eight books to win the award and I was awarded it for my second one," he says.

"After I won the award I was at a grand dinner sitting beside a rich and sophisticated Frenchwoman trying to convince her that I was the person to sell her Impressionist pictures. I told her I had just won a literary award in London. She asked what for and I said 'bad sex' and she looked at me, very appraisingly, and said: 'Yes. I can see there would be no shortage of competition for such an award in England'."

Mr Hook writes in his study — the walls covered in pictures including one of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, the venue of the flower show — and on a white-tiled roof terrace that leads off the study with two battered box trees in white Versailles tubs. There is a white-painted bench and a table. The main garden is walled, a classic, small, town plot with borders overshadowed by an acacia. "The tree defines the garden and when I look out while I am writing it can seem almost rural," he says.

The neighbouring garden to the left of the Hooks' is completely covered in glass. "It is a swimming pool but we like to pretend that it is our greenhouse," he says.

A hose leads off a tap on Mr Hook's writing terrace. "I used to stand up here and assiduously sprinkle the grass below, although this summer it's hardly been necessary to do any watering at all. The grass was taking so much of my time to keep going in this small garden with all this shade that I decided to pave it over. Although I now feel a tremendous sense of loss about it. For two weeks it really worked but, as my son Louis, who is ten now, grew older, it looked more and more like the goal mouth of Stamford Bridge."

Despite regular hammerings from footballs, a narrow defence of plants clings to the perimeter of the pitch: roses, mallow, bears britches, anemone, choisya, rhododendron, lavender, ceanothus, jasmine and ivy.

"We eat out here a lot. Breakfast is the best time — we have idyllic breakfasts out here — but it is so frustrating that I had to get rid of the lawn."

So the favoured gardening activities — mowing and chopping — happen at their rented house in Kent.

"My gardening is very much geared to grass. I love it. I love mowing paths through long grass. I use a petrol-driven mower. I feel it would be immoral to have a mower that propelled itself. True pleasure only comes in suffering," says Mr Hook.

The Hooks have gardened in Kent for three years, where the scale is in keeping with the two-and-a-half acre Chelsea Rectory garden where Mr Hook grew up. It is probably still the biggest private garden in central London, after Buckingham Palace, and the property recently went on the market for £25 million.

"My parents were keen gardeners and used to spend all their time working in it. I still remember the magnolia tree outside the drawing-room window, the asparagus bed at the kitchen door and a magnificent 400-year-old mulberry bush that still fruited. It is supposed to have been planted by Elizabeth I. Wellington is meant to have planned his Waterloo campaign there and Charles Kingsley certainly wrote some of the *Water Babies* there.

"In winter the lawn became my Stamford Bridge and in summer it became my Lord's. I thought everybody had gardens like that. But when we left the garden, in 1961, I knew how Adam and Eve must have felt."

● *Philip Hook's latest novel* The Soldier in the Wheatfield *is published by Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99*



Mr Hook paved over the lawn when it became too time-consuming



The large "defining" acacia tree



Q From a mail order firm, I recently bought six *Tropaeolum* "Flame Flowers", expecting them to be the desirable perennial *Tropaeolum speciosum*. What I got looked like six flame-coloured nasturtiums, *Tropaeolum majus*, with undivided large fleshy foliage. I kept them, waiting to see if I was wrong and this unlikely foliage was just a juvenile stage, and if the finer, deeply lobed foliage would follow. But the foliage never altered and I see now they are just nasturtiums with good flower colour. I feel aggrieved. The supplier has not given me a satisfactory answer. What really is the "flame flower"? — *Mr L. Skelton, Westwood, Notts.*

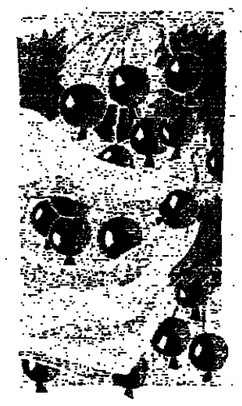
A At times like this I despair of common names. They can be the cause of so much confusion. Nowhere can I find reference to any other *Tropaeolum* but the species *T. speciosum* bearing the common name flame flower. It is most commonly called the flame creeper, although some call it the Scottish flame flower, not because it comes from Scotland (it is South American) but because it grows so well in the Scottish climate. That is why it is so desirable in the hotter south of England. Occasionally, it is called the flame nasturtium, which thoroughly confuses it with the common nasturtium, *Tropaeolum majus*, known as Indian cress. So selling *Tropaeolum majus* under the name "flame flower" is somewhere close to selling sunflowers as artichokes; they are sunflowers and species of *Helianthus*. One is annual and one is perennial.

I should ask for reimbursement. Legally you may not be entitled to it. When an advertiser shows the Mail Order Protection Scheme symbol in the advertisementyou are covered in case he goes bankrupt. But unsatisfactory goods must be returned within 14 days, if perishable, to be entitled to a refund (28 days for non-perishable). When buying plants by mail order, it is better to opt for those which offer a Latin name so there is no ambiguity.

Q A tall plant has appeared in my garden, with clumps of waving stems and rich purple flowers. What is it and how do I propagate it? — *Mrs D. Horton, Carnforth, Lancashire.*

A From your sample I see that this is the common mallow, *Malva sylvestris*, possibly the wine-purple form Mauritiana. It is perennial but not long-lived, especially on heavy soils. However, the purple forms produce plenty of seed. Look out for them ripening. The seed heads, in typical mallow fashion, have a ring of seeds packed in a circle around a central boss. They are black when ripe. Sow some more next spring if you need to, where you want them to grow. Seedsmen Thompson and Morgan are introducing *Malva* 'Mystic Merlin' this autumn, which has purple, mauve and blue forms in the same mixture.

Q Topping and tailing blackcurrants must be the most boring chore on earth. Is it necessary? Would the furry tails be harmless if eaten? Or would they spoil the jam? Is there an easy way to do it?



Is there a variety of currant that is topless and tail-less as anyone would wish her to be? — *Mr C. James, Anglesey.*

A Only perfectionists need remove the tails from currants. It is, after all, only the shrivelled calyx of the flower and much less hard even than the seeds in the fruit itself. Tails do not spoil the jam. Tops, on the other hand, are the woody stalks which support the fruit and if they get into the jam they stick between the teeth. They are well worth removing.

Some gardeners like to pick blackcurrants by pruning at the same time, cutting off at least some of the fruited stems and stripping them individually. There is no need to nip the fruit twice this way. But some fruited stems will still need picking on the bush.

Fruits on healthy modern bushes, such as the low-growing Ben Connan, can be so large that it is fast and easy enough to take several pickings from the bushes, a berry at a time, nipping them clean as you go. These are the ones to throw raw into cake mixture or chocolate brownies. They are far better than commercial blueberry muffins.

If you want to be able just to pull off the fruits, remember they will come more cleanly and with less stalk once they are fully ripe and really black and soft.

● *Write to Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. Enclosures cannot be returned.*



Of roses and restoration

GARDENS TO VISIT

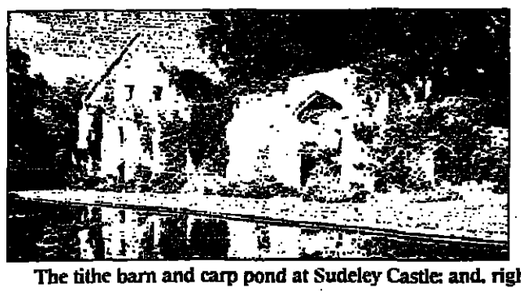
■ **Sudeley Castle**
Winchcombe, Glos. 8m N of Cheltenham (01242 602308) Open until Oct 31, Tues to Sun 10.30am-5.30pm. £4.45.
THIS weekend the rose festival is being held at Sudeley for no extra charge. This is an exciting garden both in terms of its history and its design. Cromwell's mob gave it a hiding and the resulting romantic ruins of the banqueting hall have been turned into a courtyard garden with the fireplace still intact, along with a stone "armchair" draped with the rambler rose Veilchenblau. The roses at Sudeley are renowned, partly thanks to Jane Fearnley-Whittingstall who created the Queen's garden in 1989. Rosemary Verey made the secret garden close by an area which, according to the house's present incumbent Henry Dent-Brocklehurst, may be haunted.

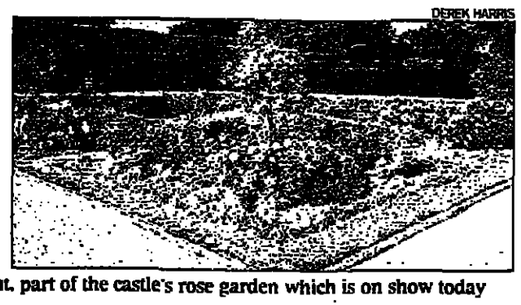
His recent wedding to Lili Maltese took place in the tithe barn whose ruined remains are a backdrop to species roses, *Euphorbia characias wulfenii*, *Romneya coulteri* 'White Cloud', and the skeleton of a once-mighty wistaria.

Mr Dent-Brocklehurst has plans for the restoration of the parkland. His mother, Lady Ashcombe, is responsible for breathing life into the gardens around the house. Her innovation is the Moroccan-style knot garden based on the dress worn in a painting of Elizabeth I. Tiles, coloured gravel and box blend together English and Moorish garden traditions. At the perimeter is an area of old vegetable varieties supplied by the Henry Doubleday Association.

■ **Gilbert White's House and Garden**
The Wakes, Selborne, 4½ miles S of Alton. (01420 511275). Open daily until Dec 24. 11am-4.30pm. £3.50.

DEREK HARRIS





The tithe barn and carp pond at Sudeley Castle; and, right, part of the castle's rose garden which is on show today

The five-acre park and garden where the 18th-century naturalist wrote *The Natural History of Selborne* is being restored using plants with which he would have been familiar — pinks, hollyhocks, santolina and roses — and a quincunx of five cypresses on a mound designed by him. The Victorian pond garden is being made into a naturalist garden.

■ **Logan Botanic Garden**
Port Logan by Stranraer, Wigtownshire, Dumfries and Galloway. 14m S of Stranraer (01776 860231). Open daily until Oct 31. 9.30am-6pm. £3.
The warmth of the Gulf Stream keeps the area almost frost-free and the gardens have an exotic feel, all the more so because of the avenue of Chusan palms, trees, ferns and cabbage palms. Mediterranean plants thrive here.

JANE OWEN

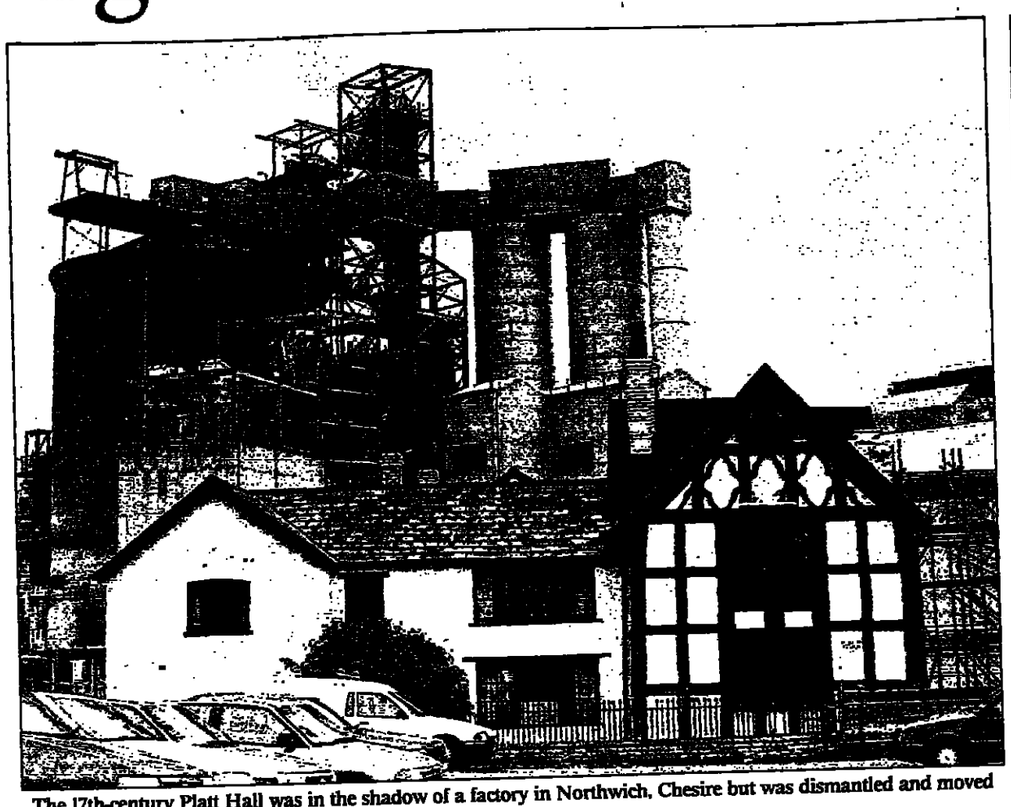


The naturalist Gilbert White's garden at Selborne

هكذا من الأهل

Moving heaven and lots of earth

Many people move house but some take it literally, says Christine Webb



The 17th-century Platt Hall was in the shadow of a factory in Northwich, Chesire but was dismantled and moved

STUART CONWAY



Platt Hall is given a new home near Middlewich



The Goldens bought, sight unseen, Platt Hall in pieces

The phrase moving house takes on a new — and particularly apt — meaning for three houses now on the market.

An exquisite Tudor house called Old Hadleigh, at Capel St Mary, Suffolk, is so named because it was originally built seven miles from its present site, in the market town of Hadleigh. In 1934 the house and its outbuildings were moved but it still has a number of original features: carved beams, carved barge boards, Tudor plaster friezes, fireplaces and stained glass windows.

No one seems to know why it was shifted, but owners Bridget Farley and her sister, Anne De'Ath, guess it was because of its 2.5-acre garden.

"It was moved lock, stock and barrel, but unlike most Tudor houses it has a damp course," says Mrs Farley. "It was one of a pair of houses that were joined together, and the other half went to America." The house was left to the sisters by their 90-year-old father, and they have copies of the deeds going back to 1741. They are selling it through Savills for £225,000.

Manor Farm Yard was a 16th-century Yorkshire barn until it found itself in Petersham, Surrey. It was bought on impulse when Sally and Christopher Codrington, during a visit to Yorkshire, saw it was about to be demolished. They reconstructed the barn in 1984 in a corner of their garden at a cost of about £120,000, intending to sell it off, but they liked it so much they moved in and sold their house instead. Three years ago they sold up and moved to Yorkshire.

The present owners have extended and refurbished the house to include a two-storey master bedroom suite, three further bedrooms, two more bathrooms, a vaulted drawing room with timber trusses, and it is back on the market through Hamptons at £1.2 million.

Conservationists are rarely overjoyed at the idea of transplanting the traditional buildings of one region to another, but The Old House, at Tenterden, Kent, is at least indigenous. It was a farmhouse in nearby Wealden, but was moved in the mid-Eighties and now looks new despite its tile-hung upper floor, tall chimney stack, and inglenook fireplace. In moving, it lost its listed status, but still offers pleasant modern accommodation with four bedroom/bathroom suites. Humberts is selling it for about £430,000.

The idea of moving a house is not as modern as we might think. Strutt & Parker recently sold The Old Rectory, Tresillian, in Cornwall, which was originally built three miles away in 1850.

By the end of the 19th century most of the parish's population had migrated north. So it was taken apart stone by stone and re-erected. That move was unusual in that most buildings that travel are timber-framed rather than stone.

Timber frame specialist Border Oak Design & Construction has just moved the 17th-century, half-timbered Platt Hall from its uncomfortable situation in the shadow of the Brunner Mond chemical factory at Northwich, Cheshire.

In March it was taken to the company's yard near Leominster, Herefordshire, where the old oak frame was restored and repaired. Then it was driven the 100 miles back to Cheshire, where it is being re-erected in the grounds of Bostock Hall, at Davenham, near Middlewich, which is being developed by Manchester-based PJ Livesey Rural Heritage. In between, while it was mere pieces of a jigsaw puzzle in Border Oak's yard, it was bought, sight unseen, by David and Polly Golden. "We took a chance, buying it without knowing what we would get," says Mr Golden. "Watching it go up is fascinating, as, apart from a picture of it being demolished, we haven't even seen photographs of how it was.

> 'It was one of a pair of houses — the other one went to America'

"We had no idea of what it looked like inside, though we knew it would have five bedrooms. The Elizabethan staircase has just gone back inside, and the skill they had in 1655 is amazing.

"Every weekend when I visit it I'm filled with anticipation because I haven't a clue what I'll find. Fitting a building back together like this is not easy but it's very exciting."

While Border Oak also builds new timber-framed houses, Antique Buildings, of Dunsfold, Surrey, specialises in the "second hand" market, and can offer a choice of 35 barns, granaries and other outbuildings suitable for conversion into homes, as well as a couple of houses, all in jig-saw puzzle form, stored at the company's spacious yard.

Most have been rescued from demolition, or from falling down, says owner Peter Barker, who has been moving buildings since 1975. "First we take a really scholarly record of what's there, with detailed photographs and detailed drawings.

"We number the building's components on the drawings, and as we dismantle it, put the corresponding plastic numbers on to the beams or whatever. We start from the top, being careful with hand-made roof tiles, which chip easily. We stack them carefully in wire crates for storage. We carry on stripping until we expose the shell, which we support, then photograph carefully. This makes a nice keepsake for the new owners.

"Taking rafters off you have to be so careful, as old oak is strong and hard, but brittle. It's incredibly heavy, weighing 55lbs a cubic foot, but if you drop a beam, you may break a mortise or tenon that will take five hours to repair on the ground."

Great care is taken to avoid scratching or cleaning the timbers when they are stacked and stored so that the patina of ages is preserved, adds Mr Barker. The company will re-erect the frame and oversee a builder to ensure that the right brick infill, mortar mixture and finishes are used.

A timber frame to support a three to four-bedroom house costs £30,000 but Mr Barker estimates it costs a further £150,000 to build, service and finish, excluding land costs. "If there's a sag in the roof, we note it and try to keep it when the house is rebuilt, making sure it is stabilised and supported properly. That way, the building still looks as if it's been around for a while, which of course it has, with many of our frames dating from the 1600s." Mr Barker adds.

"A house we have in stock was spot-listed as its owner was dismantling it. He built a new house eight feet from this three-bedroom cottage at Lingfield, Surrey, and when he started to dismantle this one, the beautiful frame was exposed. A local authority official driving past said: 'You can't take that down!'

"The owner approached me and the authority accepted an undertaking that I could save the building in its entirety and put it back up again elsewhere. Now we're looking for a buyer to put it back up. The price is £25,000."

● *Savills (01473 234800); Hamptons International (0181-940 2772); Humberts, Tenterden (01580 765858); Border Oak Design & Construction (01568 708752); PJ Livesey Group (0161-873 7878); Antique Buildings (01483 200477)*

Diary of a househunter

MONDAY
It's official: house prices are coming down. An article in last week's *Sunday Times* reports that a £100,000 flat in London is worth £5,000 less than in January. Does this mean that the London flat we are buying at £102,000 would have been £107,000 in January or should be £97,000 now?

TUESDAY
Experts' views mean little to the family on the street. We have to live somewhere and our house-sitting option in Esher ends in two days. Still the conveyancing is slow.

WEDNESDAY
My harassing calls to Anna-Maria, the vendor's agent, are backfiring. She tries to hassle the vendor's solicitor for



an exchange date and he tells her to back off and let him do his job.

THURSDAY
Still harassing. I suggest to Anna-Maria that maybe the vendor herself could move out. "She's an old lady and has got nowhere to go", she pleads. We know the feeling.

FRIDAY
Fortunately, Granny in Portsmouth comes to the rescue. Eager to see her grandson, she offers unlimited hospitality. Aged 34, I pack our possessions and move back home.

EMMA MAHONY

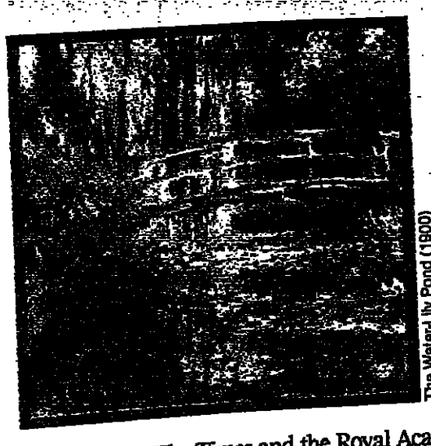
● *Next week: Ready to exchange at last*

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER AND COMPETITION

THE TIMES

JUMP THE QUEUE TO SEE THE MONET EXHIBITION

EXCLUSIVE PRIORITY BOOKING ON 50,000 TICKETS



The Water-Lily Pond (1900)



Houses of Parliament, Sunlight Effect (1903)



Water Lilies (1907)

Today *The Times* and the Royal Academy of Arts offer readers the first 50,000 tickets for *Monet in the 20th Century*, sponsored by Ernst & Young, which is on show at the RA, Piccadilly, London W1, from January 23. Hailed as the exhibition of the decade,* booking is open exclusively to *Times* readers from today, September 5. You can see the exhibition between January 23 and February 22, 1999. Tickets do not go on sale to the general public until September 14.

Monet in the 20th Century brings together 80 outstanding paintings by the founder of Impressionism. Highlights of this exhibition include dazzling scenes of Monet's garden at Giverny, luminous views of London and Venice and seven of his monumental water lily panels, one of which has never been seen in public before.

The Royal Academy is adopting a system of timed entry to help to avoid queues and overcrowding in the galleries.

*See the Magazine, page 34, for an article about the exhibition.

HOW TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS

The gallery is open from 9am to 6pm Sunday to Thursday and from 9am to 10pm on Friday and Saturday. Tickets cost: adults £9; concessions £6; 12-18 years £3; 8-11 years £1.50, plus a booking fee of £1.80 per person for up to five tickets and £1.40 per person for bookings of six or more tickets. Call the credit card hotline, below, with details of the date and time of day you would like to visit the exhibition. Lines open daily 8am-10pm until September 26.

HOTLINE: 0870 842 2200

23 January – 18 April 1999
MONET IN THE 20TH CENTURY
Sponsored by ERNST & YOUNG

WIN A TRIP TO BOSTON

To celebrate the exciting *Monet in the 20th Century* exhibition, which opens in London in January, the Royal Academy of Arts and city-break specialists City Escapades, have joined forces to offer one lucky *Times* reader the opportunity to win a holiday for two in Boston, USA, where they can see *Monet in the 20th Century* before Christmas.

The prize consists of three nights' bed and breakfast for two people at the distinctive Le Meriden hotel in the heart of Boston's finest shopping district and all the historic attractions close by. Flights will be courtesy of British Airways.



HOW TO ENTER

All readers who book their Monet tickets before September 26 will automatically be entered into a prize draw to win the trip to Boston. Readers who do not wish to go to the exhibition in London can enter by sending their name and address on a postcard to: *The Times/Monet in the 20th Century*, PO Box 5078, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7GB.

For details of autumn breaks to 50 cities including Boston, where the Monet exhibition will run until December, call 0181 563 8959

The holiday must be taken between October 1 and December 15 1998, is subject to availability and is non-transferable. The holiday is based on two people sharing a twin/double room and does not include meals, apart from breakfast, transfers or holiday insurance.

CITY Escapades

CHANGING TIMES



Mr Sewell's impressive hallway in the Eldon Road house he has put on the market

Gossip on every level

Brian Sewell, art world scourge, is selling up, writes **Rachel Campbell Johnston**

A placid church stands on the street corner, its noticeboard offering its gardens for the "peaceful enjoyment" of passers-by. Two students drowse beneath the hydrangeas. Ox-eye daisies nod in the breeze. When Christ's Church was consecrated in 1851, the noticeboard informs us, market gardens surrounded it on three sides.

Something of their rural tranquillity still lingers among the handsome terraces of Eldon Road. The dusty thunder of the Cromwell Road, channelling London traffic out to the West, ebbs to inaudibility. Houses painted in Battenberg pastels, iced with white stucco, stand calm and slender under a gentle sky.

"I really believe this is one of the quietest streets in London," says Brian Sewell, raising his voice above a cannonade of barking. Mop, the mongrel, confined to the basement kitchen, is eager to ascertain who has had the audacity to ring the bell.

Mr Sewell, intemperate art critic and columnist for the *Evening Standard*, is probably the longest standing resident of the street. "When I moved here 30 years ago, I thought it would be for ever," he says. "It's the sort of house you hang on to, knowing you won't find another."

But a heart complaint has made his morning perambulation of the nearby Kensington Gardens increasingly difficult. He needs to move to a home with a more spacious garden for his dogs. "I wish I had my mother's heart," he says. "Hers was still going strong even after she had died."

Although in recent months he has been an acerbic spokesman for a campaign to save Kensington Gardens from becoming a memorial to "that dreadful Diana", he insists that he is not moving because of that. "That would mean that the dreadful Diana had won," he declares with a shudder.

Built in 1850, 19 Eldon Road would once have been a fairly typical Victorian mansion, but Mr Sewell is the latest in a line of tampering artistic types who have inhabited it, moulding it to their needs.

He unfurls a roll of title deeds, yellowing parchments splashed with sealing wax. He will be happy to pass them on to the new owners. One of the earliest occupants was the engraver Frederic Stacpoole, who sold the house on to a fashionable portrait painter, a Dutchman, Antoon van Welie, who worked in the huge studio which dominates the ground floor.

Then the studio windows looked out over a garden, but when Chester Beatty, a wealthy American industrialist, became the owner in 1929, he doubled the studio size to accommodate a splendid art collection, including one of Van Gogh's *Sunflowers*. That vast room, Mr Sewell says, is the reason he bought the house. Large enough to accommodate an impressive working library, it is walled with shelves and lined with paintings. Mr Sewell tests me on provenances and painters, chuckling malevolently when I get it wrong and making the odd concession to ignorance.

The extended studio was not the only adaptation Beatty made to the building. A pupil of Rennie Mackintosh remodelled the façade with a tall bay window, its clean, vertical emphasis echoing the aesthetic of the Glasgow style. An ample staircase winds its way up from the skylighted hall. Magnificent doors have been raided from continental priories, fine marble mantels frame the hearth in every room. In 1953 a new owner, a Hungarian photographer with a penchant for saucy life studies, added Baroque-style abandon to the elegant white exterior.

Hiring a Catalan artist, Juan Rebull, he fastened flamboyant tondos to the façade. Meanwhile, says Sewell, "young women threw interesting poses on the roof garden" to the neighbours' fascination.

To wend one's way through the house with Sewell, up and down five storeys, in and out of endless bedrooms — there are nine in all — is to hear history, spiced with gossip, unfold. Sewell himself has made few changes — though he courageously admits to the 1970s hessian, "rusted, rather like an old Fiesta" — and the estate agents' details suggest that the rooms "will need updating and refurbishment".

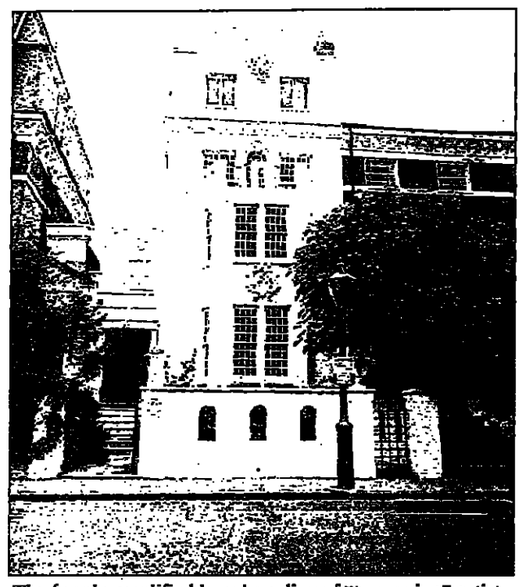
But any careful new owner will want to preserve its idiosyncrasy, the delightful quirks which give character to each room: the original Delft tiles in the drawing room fireplace, the frivolous bathroom door, the magnificent mahogany parquet flooring, the pilasters and plaster mouldings and even the Palladian dog kennel at the front door.

● *Agents Knight Frank, 67 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4BG (017-937 8203)*



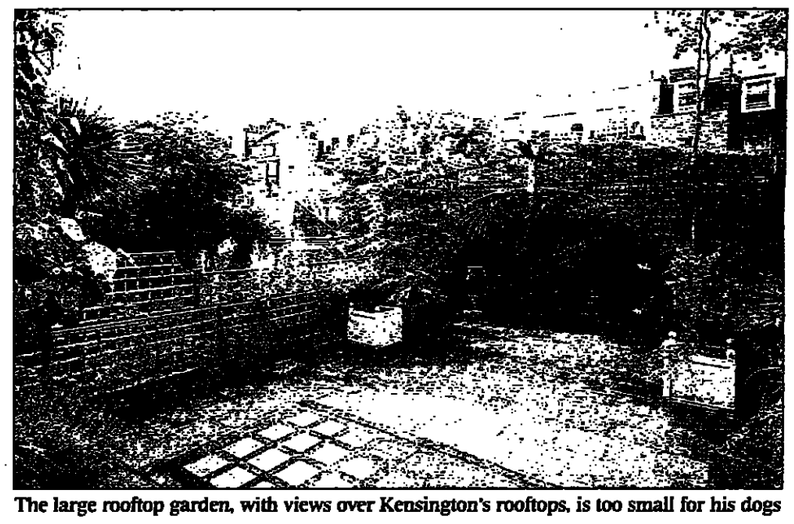
CHRISTOPHER BARKER

Brian Sewell in the studio which dominates the ground floor, and the reason, he says, why he bought the property. It houses his books and paintings



The façade, modified by a long line of "tampering" artists

HOUSE OF THE WEEK



The large rooftop garden, with views over Kensington's rooftops, is too small for his dogs

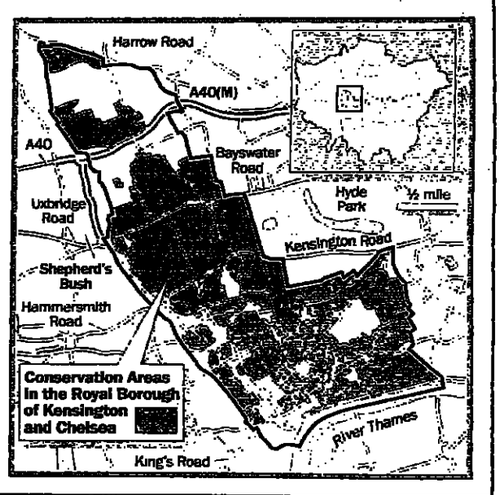
MARKET COMMENT: KENSINGTON

LONDON is full of conservation areas: Kensington has 27, Westminster has 51. They range from little enclaves to large chunks such as Holland Park, Blackheath and Hampstead Garden Suburb. The principle is to conserve an area of character, so tighter planning controls are imposed on private properties by the local authorities. A house in a conservation area adds to its saleability.

"People pay extra because they like the ambience of the area and they know nothing's going to spoil it," says Roddy Craggs at Knight Frank. Peter Luder, planning partner, adds: "Although you lose some rights over your property, there is a communal benefit from the preservation of the area's character."

A four or five-bedroom house in Kensington would be worth £1 million, the equivalent in North Kensington (not a conservation area) would be £750,000; part of that difference could be because of the conservation status.

FAITH GLASGOW



HOME SWAP

PROPERTY prices in Richmond, Surrey, are slipping. Houses and flats costing more than £200,000 have been hit hardest. Many vendors are failing to achieve asking prices and accepting lower offers, says G.A. Property Services. One-bedroom flats start at £95,000; from £140,000 for two bedrooms. The smartest address on Richmond Hill will set you back at least £500,000 for a four to five-bedroom semi-detached Victorian house.

Sales of traditional black-and-white timbered cottages are brisk around Bewdley, Worcestershire's Georgian gem on the banks of the river Severn. The area, surrounded by unspoilt countryside, including the Wyre Forest, is popular with commuters from Birmingham and Worcester. A two-bedroom terraced cottage can be had for £80,000; detached period cottages start at £120,000 for three bedrooms. A larger cottage, with two or three acres of paddocks, will cost about £200,000.

Prices are low in northeast Scotland around Huntly, a rural area 36 miles northwest of Aberdeen. Here you can buy a three-bedroom terraced house for £40,000; a detached four-bedroom cottage for £80,000 or a five-bedroom Victorian rectory from £150,000.



This two-bedroom character cottage, with a secluded rear garden in Lower Mortlake Road, Richmond, Surrey, has a price tag of £162,500 (GB Town & Country, 0181-940 7155).



Move to Bewdley in Worcestershire and you can buy Laurel Cottage (£169,000), a restored four-bedroom Grade II listed black-and-white timbered cottage with many original features and a pretty garden (GB Town & Country, 01562 751981).



Spend a little more in Aberdeenshire and you could become the proud owner of St. Margaret's Rectory, a renovated five-bedroom Victorian house, at Forgue, near Huntly. It comes with about an acre of walled gardens, a church hall and two stone-built outbuildings (Strutt & Parker, 01330 824888).

CHERYL TAYLOR

House-hunting made simple

Can't find a house? Let someone else do it for you, says **Mike Hewitt**



MARK HUDSON

They say that moving house is as stressful as divorce or bereavement. Well, actually finding the right house in the first place is even more agonising.

However, there is an alternative. Specialist "home search" companies will, for a fee, find a property that matches your specification, negotiate the price and contract, and even arrange to have a bottle of champagne waiting to welcome you when you move in.

What sort of people use such a service? Bob Gordon, a Canadian businessman, is typical. Originally based in Toronto, he found he had to relocate to the UK. "Seen from abroad, the UK housing situation is daunting," he says. "I've moved around a lot in America and it's never taken me more than a day or two to buy a house. Over there, any real estate agent can sell any house, anywhere in the country. You just explain what you are looking for, and they will access a computer and instantly bring up all the properties that match your spec.

"But over here, house-hunting is a full-time job. I went into one estate agent in Chiswick and told him the sort of properties I'd like to look at. He said that he didn't even know if there were any on his books that matched my specification, and that he'd first have to check his inventory, then book appointments. All of which would have taken at least a week. So I'd either have had to sit around in a hotel for week, or else return to Toronto, and then fly back."

Fortunately, Mr Gordon found Castle search, based in Berkshire. "My instructions to them were simple: I wanted a large, detached house with easy access to Heathrow, and with a Tube or railway station nearby. My wife wanted it to be located in a place with pubs and restaurants that offered some sort of scene for the kids whenever they were here on holiday from university."

Having presented his spec, Mr Gordon returned to Canada. In the meantime, Castle Search registered him with more than 300 estate agents in the Heathrow area. They took it upon themselves to sift through all the bumf that then descended from those agencies and visited between 50 and 60 potential properties. Once these had been narrowed down to six that most closely matched Mr Gordon's requirements, he flew back to England to view them. When he had made his choice, Castle Search took it from there and handled the negotiation and contractual side.

"The whole procedure took two months, but actually involved only half a day of my time. If I'd gone through conventional channels, I'm sure I'd still be looking," he says.

Mr Gordon's demands were fairly straightforward. Some clients can be slightly more demanding. Many insist that agencies check out the performance levels of nearby schools to ensure their offspring will not end up in the equivalent of St Trinian's. Others require a decibel rating from nearby pubs and restaurants to guard against sleepless nights. One client even specified that his home should have an adjacent jetty where he could moor his Second World War U-boat. But however bizarre the request, search agencies are usually happy to oblige, though they do not necessarily promise to deliver.

Most work in much the same way. You pay an up-front search fee of between £250 and £800, depending on the area. If the search is successful, you then pay a "performance fee", based on a percentage (usually around 1 to 1½ per cent) of the sale price. This might sound expensive, but for many people the search company pays for itself. In Bob Gordon's case it saved him thousands of pounds in airfares and hotel bills. Likewise, City professionals and others wedded to their jobs can find it far more cost-effective to pay someone else to do the house-hunt than take time off to do it themselves.

Then there are the problems — gazumping, deals falling through — where search agencies can also help. Knightsbridge-based HomeSearch, for example, sends out a form with an exclusivity clause that prevents sellers from accepting any other offer for ten days. So far, none of its clients has been gazumped.

"Most deals fall through somewhere between where the price has been agreed and the exchange," says director James Moss. "The reason is that quite often the transactions aren't nurtured through. That's where we come in. We understand how all the elements — solicitors, valuers, surveyors, and so on — work, and so can quantify and solve problems if they arise."

● *HomeSearch 0171-838 1066*
● *Castle Search 0800 783 3618*

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SOUTH OF THE THAMES

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CLERKENWELL EC1. 2 bed triplex flat, garden, £225,000. Stamford Sabri Carr 0171 250 1012

EC1 Shell unit flr bedroom upstrs 400sqft £142,500. Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414

WC1 2 bed split level flat. Garden. new refurb, bathrm, shower. GCH. 125yr lse. £255,000 Bunbury & Ball 0171 833 4466.

WC1 5 storey, 5 bedrooms, 2 recpts, 3 kitchens, 3 bathrooms. GCH. parkg. bals. £385,000. Fifi Bunbury & Ball 0171 833 4466.

WIGMORE PLACE W1 (off Cavendish Sq.) Mews house with 900 ft. Lse, recep, 2 beds, 1 o/s bath, 1 o/s shwr, kit, dble gge. Planning for extra floor & basement. £450,000 No offers. Jeremy James & Co. 0171 486 4111.

WIMPOLE St. W1 Spacious 3rd flr flat (No lift), recep, kit/b/fst rm, 2 dble beds, 1 o/s bath, rem. shwr. 71 yr Lse. £299,950. Jeremy James & Co. 0171 486 4111.

CITY, DOCKLANDS & EAST

WAPPING E1 - nr St. Katherine's Dock. Quality 3 bed, 2 bath duplex apart, garage, gdn, nr tube. £210,000 LB. 0171 702 9207

FULHAM

BISHOPS PARK 4/5 bed 3 bath exec hse 50' gdn quiet good xking £425k. 0961 117351.

FULHAM

WILLOW LODGE, SW6. Bright 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom apartment, direct river views in popular development with 18hr. porterage, secure parking + swimming pool. £330,000 Leasehold. Contact Bonhelle 0171 731 2808

WIMBLEDON SW 4 bed hse with planning for auction. 0181 741 9990 Bernard Matcus.

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GLEDDOW GARDENS Stunning 1st floor 1 bed flat with study & garden access. £197,500. No agents. Tel: 0171 244 9727.

NOTTING HILL 2 bed 1930's apt, wood floors, bals. Cltr council) £120,000. 0171 221 9044

W14 2 bed elegant mixed ground floor Victorian apt, nr Holland Park. £179,950. 0171 221 9044

NOTTING HILL

SHREWSBURY MEWS, W2. Spacious 3 storey 2 dbl bed mews hse built in the 80's. 2 bath, large L-shaped recep rm. Kit/bst rm, gas central heating. Garage. Utility room. £295,000. Share of freehold. Westbourne Estates 0171 727 8612.

W11 2 bed period apt, private walled garden, wood floors, £280,000. 0171 221 9044

RICHMOND & KINGSTON

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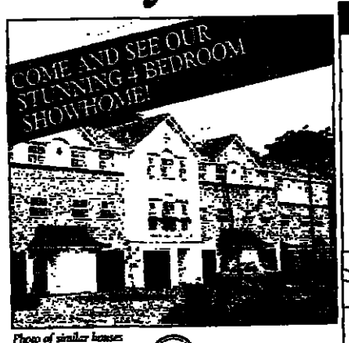
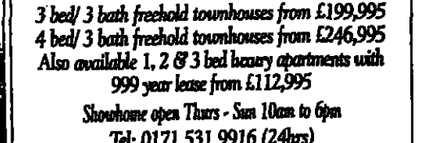


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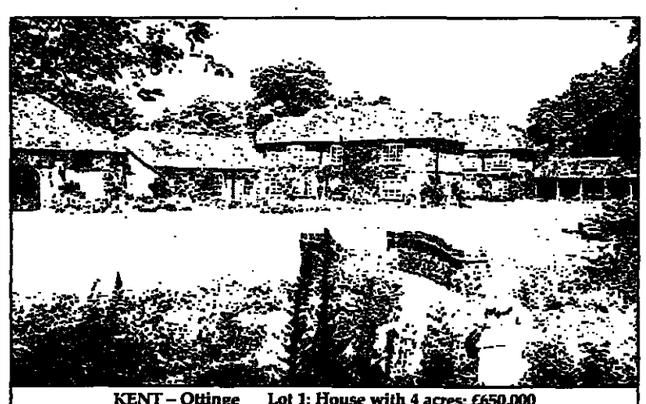
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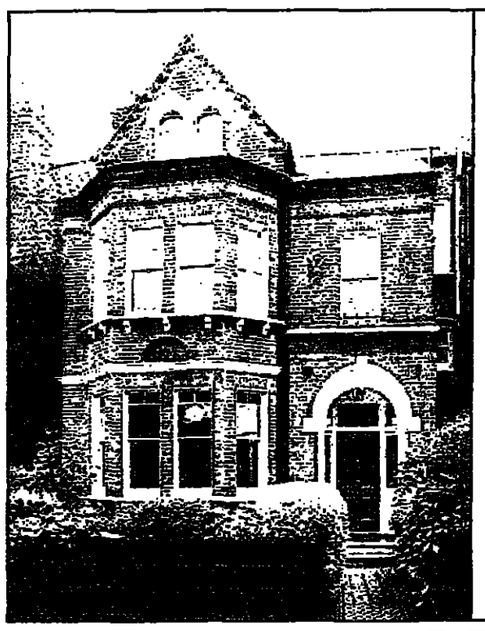
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Ranting all over the park

The roar of traffic is now driving even hardened orators further into Hyde Park. **David Welch** reports

Soapboxes are things of the past — cardboard containers have replaced them — but soapbox oratory still flourishes, and gets into a lather every week at Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park, London. Scores of speakers assemble there, come rain or shine.

Supporters sometimes go with them and there is a rearguard of hecklers who have developed their gifts of scepticism, sarcasm, caustic commentary, obstruction and sometimes rudeness to a high art. There are also amateur hecklers, but any experienced speaker is merciless with the well intentioned, rebuts every point, offers gratuitous character analyses, and reflects on matters of parentage or potency. New hecklers must develop thick skins fast, graduate to a higher level of inventive interruption, or die of shame.

> 'Any experienced speaker is merciless with the well intentioned'

The main themes at the moment — they vary over time — are religious. This is not exclusively the religion of brotherly love; we offer a strong line in hellfire and damnation in every faith but, unfortunately for the heckler, the biblical text which notes that the soft answer turns away wrath, has largely escaped the attention of our speakers. The outspoken priest Ezra would have felt at home.

Speakers set up wherever they wish in the northeast corner of the park, close to one of the exits to Marble Arch Tube station. The main gathering moved further in when Park Lane was widened 30 years ago. This used up some of the traditional space and brought noisy traffic closer. Regular speakers can all shout — this is, after all, the habitat of the leather larynx — but several buses revving in chorus are louder even than them.

We hope to make the space better, but there is a tumultuous vibrancy there, a robust anarchy that gives the area its vigour. Any new design has to capture this. It is an elusive quality.

We allowed a carousel to set up nearby as a three-month experiment this summer and although the music is turned off when speaking takes place, it is a distraction from the serious business. On the other hand it attracts children and families, helps provide an income for the park and is no more at odds with the atmosphere than the deckchairs and footballs on the other side.

Putative orators must have several qualities. The first is a point of view, held with such passion that it is worth every embarrassment to promulgate it. Issues of faith predominate and it is a mecca of free speech. Other matters crop up, but they are not the dominant themes they might once have been. Atheism is addressed but not agnosticism. Current affairs occur as references all the time and by this summer the proper noun "Monica" had been a verb.

But the strongest line today is polemical, caustic, biting, scathing repartee. Little goes unchallenged.

Tyburn tree, where public executions took place, is not very far away.

Right of assembly was recognised once and for all in 1872 as a consequence of a rally which the Reform League tried to hold in the park on July 23, 1866. The Home Secretary of the day said: "No". The League was not deterred. Members marched to the park, found it shut and were confronted by a large body of police to keep them out.

They thought better of it and went to Trafalgar Square, but other groups were still arriving and these were made of sterner stuff. Scuffles broke out, the gates and fencing collapsed and thousands of people were soon inside the park. A company of Grenadiers was summoned, but the crowd remained there, entertained by loud, colourful, public speaking. They dispersed at dusk, as they still do.

Six years later, the right was enshrined in law and now anyone with a mind to, can declaim on any day of the week, although the right is mainly exercised on Sundays. There are three caveats. The speaker must not blaspheme or be obscene, and must not incite a breach of the peace. In the super-heated atmosphere that develops, this is not always easy to enforce and because profoundly held views are expressed, scuffles sometimes break out.

Speaker's Corner is one of London's most important Sunday attractions. Thousands of visitors go there to listen and observe, and it is known around the world. When the Marble Arch design competition was launched, a journalist from South Korean radio felt it was of enough interest back home to report the proceedings. The competition produced a scheme but there it stopped, because the problem of traffic couldn't be resolved. This is a place many tourists visit. They stay, agog. They leave, bewildered, sometimes chastened, occasionally informed, but never bored.

● *David Welch is chief executive of the Royal Parks*

ANDES PRESS AGENCY



One of Hyde Park's Speaker's Corner polemicists delivers a diatribe while hecklers attempt to undermine her efforts

Solace in Soho's heart



Noam Friedlander escapes the sleaze to a soothing Catholic mass

IN THE quiet of a Sunday morning in Soho the only reminders of the previous night's excesses are the black bags of rubbish waiting to be collected on the deserted pavements.

Few locals and even fewer visitors realise that London's neon-lit mecca for sex and food is surrounded by Catholicism. The area is bounded by three Catholic churches: Notre Dame at the top of Leicester Square, Our Lady of Assumption and St Gregory near Piccadilly Circus and St Patrick's, nestling on the eastern side of Soho Square.

St Patrick's provides an oasis of calm for all weary souls. *Pax Nobis* is inscribed on the walls and *pax* definitely reigns. The small grey-pillared door leads to a voluminous radiant sanctuary; the upper walls flanking the church have a row of tall, arched windows. The effect is strangely comforting.

Because of its position, St Patrick's Church faces the impossible challenge of having to function as a drop-in centre, a homeless shelter and a soup kitchen. Its curates do what they can, as well as clearing up used needles from the pews (possibly one of the most distasteful jobs) and handing out whatever food they might have to hand.

The Rev Stephen Willis says it is a challenge to keep it open. "There are people who want to use the place all the time. We want people to come in during the day."

The other priest working in the parish, Austin Garvey, celebrated 20 years at St Patrick's last Monday. The church has been around a lot longer. The first building, a former ballroom, was consecrated in 1792 and the present sanctuary, which needs restoring, was rebuilt with its entrance facing the square just over a century later in 1893.

Today the eclectic mix of congregants makes this community special. The Japanese singer and her fellow cantor lead the congregation that sings its heart out with passion. The reading, Luke xiv: The Parable Of The Banquet, was fitting. For if God is "an eccentric host" inviting us humble mortals to the banquet, then St Patrick's is indeed the banquet hall.

The 11am traditional mass calmed and soothed me. The day continues with a Cantonese mass at 2pm — St Patrick's is the home to the Catholic Chinese Chaplaincy — followed by another mass at 5pm. The highlight of the day, according to the Church itself, is the Spanish mass at 6pm.

This, apparently, is the liveliest, bursting with a mainly Latin American congregation. While the enthusiasm is "something to behold", this may not be the ideal service for anyone seeking the tranquillity that this church has to offer.

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The Rev Stephen Willis in the pulpit

Refusing to apologise is a sorry state of affairs

Credo

JONATHAN SACKS



The Monica Lewinsky affair raises important questions about the morality of owning up. For many Americans it is a matter of concern that the President of the United States admitted, without apologising, confessed without saying sorry. But why? What is the role of repentance in public life? And why do public figures so rarely say "I sinned"?

These questions go to the heart of this period in the Jewish year, the month of Ellul, in which we get ready for the coming High Holidays by a series of special prayers called Selichot — literally, "apologies".

I used to think that the greatest contribution of Judaism to civilization was monotheism — the idea that there is only one God. I now believe that even more important was the biblical idea that God is a person, or, to put it more formally, that God is the objective reality of the personal — meaning that the universe is not deaf to our prayers, blind to our hopes, indifferent to our lives.

For me, this idea, hugely unfashionable, is the single greatest guarantor of our humanity.

The Hebrew Bible embodies two fundamental and conflicting propositions. The first is that God asks us to aim high, living lives of integrity, justice and compassion. The second is that we all fail. As the book of Ecclesiastes puts it: "There is none so righteous on earth that they do only good and never sin." How then do we reconcile the search for perfection with our almost constant tendency to fall short?

The answer, embodied in the Day of Atonement, is that God forgives. To be moral does not mean never making mistakes. Risk is the essence of the moral life. God does not expect us not to fail. All He asks is that we acknowledge our failures, learn from them, and try not to make them again. Only a personal God forgives. The impersonal is, by its very nature, unforgiving.

The ancient world saw mankind at the mercy of impersonal forces. We are still today, although the forces have changed. In those days they were the wind, the rain, the sun, the storm. Today they are more likely to be the economy, the environment, international politics and technological change. When our universe is defined in impersonal terms, something essential to our humanity is lost.

Today the media and public opinion are impersonal gods — much more like the gods of ancient Greece than the God of the Judeo-Christian tradition. They are relentless, unforgiving. They punish hubris with nemesis. They confer stardom and fame, but they demand their share of human sacrifice. Contemporary culture is like the world of Greek tragedy. Enoch Powell put it best when he said: "Every political career ends in failure."

This kind of world has no room for the concepts of repentance and forgiveness. Its rules are: Never be found out. Never admit. Never apologise. Never explain. Stay in power for as long as possible. Never expose your vulnerability, lest the sharks taste blood. That is the world of contemporary public life, and it is a world we have made.

To me, this is a significantly less human world than the one Jews and Christians believe in: in which God has faith in us even when we lose faith in ourselves, in which He allows us to make mistakes, asking only of us that we admit they are mistakes.

To inhabit a world in which we can say sorry and be forgiven is no small thing. It is the gift of humanity itself.

● *Dr Jonathan Sacks is the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth*

Church services tomorrow

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Let thy merciful ears, O Lord (Mudd), Sumsion in F; 3.15 E, Brewer in D, Responses (Ayleward), The Dean.
BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, Lord for thy tender mercies' sake (Hilton); 3.30 Ch E.
BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 4 Ch E, *Responses* (Holden), Jesu joy of man's desiring (Bach); 5.30 Asian Christians service.
BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M, A: Dear Lord and Father of mankind (Parry); 10.30 Euch, A: Ave verum (Mozart), Rev M Wedgeworth; 4 Ch E.
BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8, 11 Euch, The Brecon mass (Moore), Ven A E Pierce; 3.30 E, Wood in E flat, Responses (Ayleward).
BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Jesu rex admirabilis (Palestrina); 3.30 Ch E, A: The Lord bless you and keep you (Rutter), *Canon P Johnson.*
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M, Canon O Bell; 11 S Euch, Ave Maria (Peeters); 3.15 E, *Stanford in C*; 6.30 Compline, Rev Dr M J Chandler.
CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Schubert *in G*, Canon B Kelly; 3 E, I was glad (Parry).
CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Canon A Knowles; 11.15 Euch; 6 E, Responses (Said), Canon D Knight.
CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 *L; 8 HC; 10* Euch, Liverpool mass (Rawsthorne), A: And *didst thou* travel light (Shephard); 11.30 M, Canon T Dennis; 3.30 E; 6.30 ES.
CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, *Britten in C*, Ven C M Pinder; 11 S Euch, Rev Dr J P Sheehy; 3.30 E, Dyson in D.
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina); 3.30 Ch E, Geistliches Lied (Brahms).
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M; *11.15 S Euch*; 6 E.
CORK CATHEDRAL, Ballintemple, Cork: *8 Euch*; 11:15 Ch Euch, Sumsion in F, Dean of Cork; 7 Ch E, Brewer in D.
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Mozart in C, O Lord increase our faith (Loosemore); 5 Ch E, Stanford in B flat, How beautiful (Stainer).
DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Rev M Perham; 6 E, Canon S Barby.
DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Ireland in F, Canon D Whittington; *11.15 HC*, Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria); 3.30 E, Collegium regale (Howells).
ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, *Mass* for five voices (Byrd), Canon D Green; 3.45 E, Sumsion in G, *How* lovely are thy dwellings (Brahms).
EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Let thy merciful ears, *O Lord* (Mudd); 11.15 M; 3 E, O Lorde, the Maker of All Things (Joubert); 6.30 ES.
GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 Euch, Spatzenmesse (Mozart), Canon Morgan; 12.15 HC; 3 E, *Sumsion* in G, A: Bring us O Lord (Harris).
GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 *S Euch*, Ecce panis angelorum (Philips), Mr J Mitchell; 11.30 MP; 6.30 EP, My eyes for beauty pine (Howells), Canon J Schofield.
HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, The Leicester service (Sumsion); 11.30 M, Ley in C *minor*; 3.30 E.
LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, A: I will sing with the spirit (Rutter), Archdeacon of Loughborough; 3 Grace and Peace.
LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Jubilate in E, The Dean; 3.30 E, I will lift up mine eyes (Walker).
LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch; 11.15 M, Pair was the garden (Tchaikovsky); 12.30 HC; 2 Royal Naval Association service; 3.45 E.
LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Canon M Wolfe; 3 Ch E, Rev G Davies; 4 HC.
LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch, Wood in the Phrygian mode; 12.15 HC; 3.30 E, Short service (Byrd); 6.30 E.
MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M; 9 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Mass for three voices (Byrd), Canon A Radcliffe; 6.30 EP.
NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8, 9.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Ave Jesu Christe (Philips); 3.30 E, Canon R Hanmer; 6 Royal British Legion annual county service.
PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M, Harris in A flat; 10.30 Euch, Mass for three voices (Byrd); 3.30 E, Canon D Evans.
PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, Mass of St Thomas (Thorne); 11 S Euch, If ye love me (Tallis), Canon A Wilkinson; 6 E.
RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8, 9.30 Euch, Holy is the true light (Harris), Canon M Glanville-Smith; 11.30 M; 12.30 Euch; 5.30 E.
SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Ave verum *corpus* (Elgar), *Canon D* Slater; 11.30 M; 3 Ch E, Canon J Osborne.
SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Stanford in C & F, Canon J Sinclair; 6.30 E, Venerable S Lowe.
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Ch Euch, Let all the people (Mathias); 3 Ch E, Hear my prayer (Mendelssohn) 6:30 Euch.
SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 9.30 C; 11 M, A: Hail O Virgin Mother (Rachmaninov), Stanford in C; 3.15 E, Dyson in F.
TRURO CATHEDRAL: *8 HC; 9 M; 10 S* Euch, Stanford in C & F, A: Ave verum (Elgar); 6 E, Noble in B minor.
WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 C; 11 Sol Euch, Jesu the very thought (Bairstow); 6.30 E, Te lucis ante terminium (Gardiner), Canon R Gage.
WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Collegium regale (Howells); 11.30 M, Stanford in B flat; 3 E, Preb P West.
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Stanford in B flat; 11.15 S Euch, O most merciful (Bullock), Rev D Fenton; 3 E; 6.30 ES.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9 Mass; 10.30 Sol Mass; 12 Mass; 2.45 Organ recital; 3.30 Sol V & B, Magnificat secundi toni (Mundy); 5.30, 7 Mass.
WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Beati quorum via (Stanford); 11:15 S Euch, Soul of my Saviour (Caesar); 3.30 E, Save us, O Lord (Bairstow), Canon Stewart.
YORK MINSTER: 7.30 M; 8, 8.45 HC; *10 S* Euch, Ireland in C, Canon P Ferguson; 11.30 S Euch, Ireland in C; 4 E, Fairest Lord Jesu (Edwards), Canon Prof E Norman.
ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL, Hertfordshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch; 11 M, Responses (Harris); *12.15 HC; 6.30 E, Fill our* mouths with praise (Ridout).
ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Denbighshire: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, *King of Glory* (Bach); 3.30 Ch E, A hymn for St Cecilia (Howells).
ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Caldara in G; 11.30 HC; 3.30 Ch E, Locus iste (Bruckner).
ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 HC, Mass for Five Voices (Byrd), Rev K Watson; 11:30 MS, Justorum animae (Byrd); 6 Organ Recital; 8 HC, Rev P Middleton.
ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 MS; 6 HC, Rev R Frazer.
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Britten); 3.30 EP.
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch; 11.15 S Euch, Darke in F; 3.15 Ch E, A: I came forth from the mouth of the most high (Stanford), Rev A H N McKinley.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, EC4: 8 HC; 10.15 M; 11.30 S Euch, Ave verum corpus (Hendrie); 3.15 E, Canon B Pearson; 5 Organ Recital; 6 ES, Canon M Saward.
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.
ALL SAINTS, W1: 8 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Collegium regale (Howells); 5.15 LM; 6 E & B, Rev I Davies.
ALL SOULS, W1: 9.30, 11.30 MP, Rev J Cook; 6.30 EP, Rev R Tice.
THE ASSUMPTION, W1: 11, Missa sine nomine (Heredia), Laudate Dominum (Pitoni).
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 Parish C; 6 E.
CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, WC2: 11.15; 12.20 HC; 6.30 Rev Dr O B Sparks.
FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30 LM; 11 HM, Missa Joannes de Deo (Haydn); 12.30 LM; 4.15 Mass; 6.15 LM.
HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, SW7: 9 HC; 11 MS, Rev N Gumbel; 5, 7.30 Informal Service, Rev N Lee.
HOLY TRINITY, Sloane Street: 8.45 Euch; 11 Sol Euch, Missa secunda (Hassler) Bishop M Marshall.
THE ORATORY, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa mass in C (Rheinberger); 12.30 Mass; 3.30 V & B, O sacrum convivium (Perosi); 4.30, 7 Mass.
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.
ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA, SW3: 11 M, Our Father (Rose), Save us O Lord waking (Bairstow), Rev T Hiney.
WESLEY'S CHAPEL, EC2: 11 HC, Rev Dr L Griffiths.
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist): 11 Morning Worship; Rev Dr P Graves; *6.30 HC.*
ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Ch Euch, Rev P D Schmiege.
ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, EC1 9 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Missa quam pulchra es (Palestrina); 6:30 E, Like as the hart (Howells), Dr M R Dudley.
ST BOTOLPH'S, Aldgate: 10.30 S Euch.
ST BRIDE'S, EC4: *11 Ch Euch, Wills in D*, Ave Jesu Christe (Phillips), Rev B Birchmore; 6.30 Ch E, Laudibus in sanctis (Byrd).
ST CLEMENT DANES, WC2: *11 Ch Euch*, Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Bairstow).
ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, SW1: 11, Rev D P Bush; 6.30 Rev W A Cairns.
ST ETHELDREDA'S, EC1: 11 S Mass, Mass of St Cecilia (Turner), Ave verum (Dupré).
ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch, Rector John Paul.
ST JAMES'S CHURCH, W1: 9.15 Euch; 11 S Euch, Ven W Jacobs; 5.45 EP.
ST JOHN'S, E15: 11 HC, Prelude in C minor (Bach) Rev M Okello; 6.30 EP.
ST LUKE'S, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, O Lord the Maker (Mundy); 12.15 HC; 6.30 E, Rev C Kevill-Davies.
ST MARK'S, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Like as the hart (Howells), Rev R McLaren.
ST MARGARET'S, SW1: 10 M; 11 S Euch, Canon D Gray; 3 E; 5.45 Organ Recital; 6.30 ES, Rev Dr W Carr.
ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC, 9.45 Euch, Tantum ergo (Victoria); 11.30 Visitors service, Beati quorum via (Stanford); 2.45 Chinese Service; 5 E, A: And the glory of the Lord (Handel); 6.30 ES.
ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, W8: 8 HC; *9.30 Euch, Rev F Gelli; 11.15 Ch M*; 12.30 HC; 6.30 E, Rev M Puller.
ST MARY'S, SW1: 9, 10 LM; 11 HM, Missa O quam gloriosum (Lassus); 6 Sol E & B; 7 LM.
ST MARYLEBONE, NW1: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Ave maris stella (Grieg), 6.30 Ch Healing Service, Rev J Caldwell.
ST PAUL'S, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Sol Euch, Beati quorum via (Stanford), O clap your hands (Vaughan Williams), Rev N Dawson.
ST PETER'S, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa in te Domine speravi (Lassus), Fr D B Tillyer.
CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, *Responses* (Ebdon); 3 E, Rev P R C Abram; 7 Residents Informal Service.
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 Ch HC, Tantum ergo (Duruflé), Rev L H Bryan.
ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, SE10: 11 S Euch, Rev R Nurton.

□ *Compiled by Portia Colwell.*

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CHANGING TIMES

'It's hard to grasp the scale of this crisis. A third of UK pig farmers may be out of business by the end of the year'

Pigs to the slaughter

DOWN TO EARTH



LUCY PINNEY

Last week, at Taunton Livestock Market, I kept coming across horrible stories about the recent slump in the price of pigs. I was told of piglets for sale at 50p; of producers in the North who were choosing to go into voluntary liquidation because there was no other way of ensuring that their pigs got fed; and, most shocking of all, I heard that so many desperate farmers were sending their pregnant sows to the abattoirs that at some of these places two tons of aborted piglets were being thrown out every day.

I found it hard to believe that such tales could be true, so I talked to Paul Cheale, who runs the Essex-based Cheale Meats, a company that slaughters half the cows and boars in England.

"Take a small-scale producer with 500 sows," Mr Cheale said, simplifying matters for me. "Each sow, at a conservative estimate, produces 20 piglets a year. That's 10,000 pigs. At the moment, farmers are getting about 60p a kilo for each pig when the break-even price — the price that covers their costs — is probably 95p. That's 35p a kilo they are losing every time they sell a pig, and if the average pig weighs 70 kilos, that comes to a loss of £24.50. Multiply that by 10,000 and you get a deficit of £245,000 a year; divide it by 52 and you have a loss of around £4,700 a week. Who can sustain that for any length of time?"

At Taunton market the consensus was that the strong pound had wrecked the industry, but according to Mr Cheale the reasons are to do with a worldwide overproduction of pork. His theory is that the BSE crisis led to farmers diversifying into pork and poultry instead of beef. This initial overproduction was then given a fatal boost when swine fever broke out across Europe, removing three million pigs from production and encouraging producers who were free of the disease to expand further.

America has now begun to export huge quantities of pigmeat — and along with this overproduction has come a shrinking of traditional outlets: the Far East crisis and the Russian currency devaluation have meant that both these huge customers are now almost impossible to sell to. "Quite simply," Mr Cheale explains, "there is just too much pork around and the market has crashed."

Whatever the reasons for the slump in pig prices, British farmers are at a severe disadvantage compared with the rest of Europe. Their product is more expensive (because of the strong pound), and it costs far more to produce because of our country's high welfare standards and health rules which, for instance, forbid the use of meat and bonemeal in pig feed. According to Mr Cheale, too, our industry is still reacting to events in the rest of the world.

The situation cannot begin to get better until pig production finally peaks on the Continent and that is not due to happen until early next year. So what are farmers to do in the meantime?

"My family's not prepared to pay thousands a week for the privilege of keeping pigs," said a sombre Andrew Mitchem, who keeps 550 breeding sows in Devon. "If this goes on until Christmas we'll be out of the pig business."

At the moment his tactic is to stop replacing his sows with expensive, younger breeding stock and to ride out the slump. I asked him if he was tempted to cut costs by destroying his animals and he said that he did not agree with such behaviour. It would be the logical solution: "But it's like telling people you're going to commit suicide: one thing to say and quite another to do."

Plenty of other farmers have begun to despair. I finally tracked down a slaughterman who admitted, off the record, that he was killing heavily pregnant sows: "This week alone we killed sows in pig which would have produced a total of 15,000 piglets." This may sound horrific, but as the slaughterman pointed out, quite reasonably, "If you can't afford to feed them, what are you supposed to do? Let them starve?"

It is hard to grasp the scale of the deepening crisis and difficult to predict its eventual result. I have been told that a third of UK pig producers will probably go out of business before the new year. What effect will this have on consumers?

At the very least it will mean that the supermarkets will fill up with even more imported pork, reared to dubious standards. The pigs may well have been fed on animal carcasses, they may have been given drugs banned in this country and they will certainly have been kept in cruel conditions which are outlawed here. Once the pound eventually falls, pigmeat will become more expensive, too.

If only for selfish reasons, we ought to start caring about what is happening to our pig industry, but as Peter North, of Western Quality Pigs, says sadly: "It's strange, but town people seem to think that farmers are just there to look after the countryside and shouldn't ever make a profit."

IMPACT

Harvest revelry is cropping up all over again

Sean Thomas uncovers a resurgence in celebrations of an ancient festival



When everyone worked on the land, harvest festivals were raunchy pagan affairs which offended the urban middle classes in the Victorian era

Most people's memories of harvest festivals tend to be of sad, meaningless occasions. Some will remember taking a few packets of suet to school one day in October, for no discernible reason. Others will recall equally empty church celebrations which always seem to involve the half-hearted warbling of *Come Ye Thankful People Come*, to the accompaniment of an out-of-tune piano, whereafter various tins of Heinz Big Soup were handed out to bemused pensioners.

A rare few (like this journalist) will know the most debased harvest festival of all — the one held in Wormwood Scrubs Prison, West London, every September, when 50 or so hardened robbers, muggers, burglars, car thieves and serial arsonists gather around a small plywood altar in the ugly Victorian chapel of the jail, and sing with a notable lack of enthusiasm.

Things, of course, were not always this bad. The British have not always been so deracinated, so detached, so pitifully cut off from their pastoral and agrarian roots. Time was when nearly everybody worked on the land and when nearly everybody celebrated the end of that work with a right royal knees-up.

Although the dreary, churchy harvest festival as we know it is — like so many things — a largely Victorian invention, the genuine old-time rustic beanfeast has an intriguing lineage and folklore.

Not that it was always called a harvest festival — that is another Victorian invention. It used to be called "Horkey" in eastern England, "Mell Supper" in the North, or "Harvest Frolic" in the West Country. Every one of these parochial socials had nothing to do with tins of ravioli, and everything to do with getting drunk and sitting down to a riotous meal, a "harvest home", provided by the farmer or landowner.

Many other age-old harvest rituals consciously echoed the pagan past, such as the kern doll or corn doll. This was a homunculus, lovingly constructed from the last stalks of wheat or barley, which symbolised the fertility of the land, while also acting as a talisman against the oncoming winter. The fate of this idol varied: sometimes it would be sewn into a village girl's dress, or fed to the farm horses. Sometimes it was paraded down the sunlit lanes to the big house, to be presented to the squire.

Then there were the harvest games, such as the anarchic Sussex drinking game "Turn the Cup Over" or the harvest rites such as sickle throwing, when all the men would chuck their sickles at the last stook of corn to be reaped. Most of these lusty rituals were decaffeinated or disallowed by the disapproving 19th-century middle classes.

But even if the rectors had not turned the Horkey and the Kern Feast into the dullish ecclesiastical duty that we know today, urbanisation, agricultural mechanisation and industrialisation would surely have done the trick.

And yet, after all this time, all this religious deodorising, it is still possible to find intriguing remnants of the virile old rituals around rural, and even urban, Britain. In fact, it is arguable that some evidence shows that the harvest festival is returning to its roots: that as the church becomes less important, we might see a tentative return to the more animated and riotous festivals of centuries ago.

Some communities still have a proper grasp of their harvest customs: fishing villages such as Flamborough in Humberside are hung with fishermen's nets for the occasion. Special songs are sung in Cornwall, special parties are held. Even the extremely urban church of St Mary-at-Hill (the parish church of old Billingsgate Market in London) is bedecked with 39 varieties of fish — laid out on a slab in the porch.

Another London church that celebrates harvest with more-than-the-usual brio is St Martin's in the Fields in Trafalgar Square.

On the first Sunday in October, those London costermongers, the pearly kings and queens (traditional dealers in fruit and vegetables), hold a notably energetic celebration.

Other churches and institutions do the same in market towns across the country. Richmond, in Yorkshire, for instance, re-enacts an ancient First Fruits of the Harvest ritual on one Saturday in September every year.

However, it is out in the sticks that the signs of a revival are most evident, albeit anecdotal. Many villages and parishes in the Marches have maintained — even rejuvenated — the custom of "largesse", where a visitor to a shearing shed is entitled to a bellyful of "shearing cider".

Meanwhile, in the hoplands of Kent and Herefordshire a farm bailiff or other village bigwig is still, or so it is reported, liable to end up being chucked headlong into the hop bin on the final day of picking.

The Midlands, too, has its share of odd revivals. One (nameless) new resident of a village near Naseby, in Northamptonshire, recalls his first harvest festival there, a couple of years back.

"It took place in the church but there was a definite pagan air about it. There was a kern doll on the altar, and a big feast in the church hall, and then everybody got up and danced around the kern doll. Not exactly *The Wicker Man*, but it was still a little unsettling. Then I found out that this wasn't traditional at all, but a revival. The church was not used for most of the year and the villagers decided to take it over and throw their own party. Weird."

It is perhaps pushing it a bit to claim that Britain is in the full throes of a rustic pagan renaissance: we can believe that when the cons in the Scrubs elect their first King of the Mowers. But maybe it is not too much to hope that secularisation is bringing with it one silver lining: a refreshed interest in our rural heritage and its splendid calendar of revelries. Check out a hop bin near you this year.

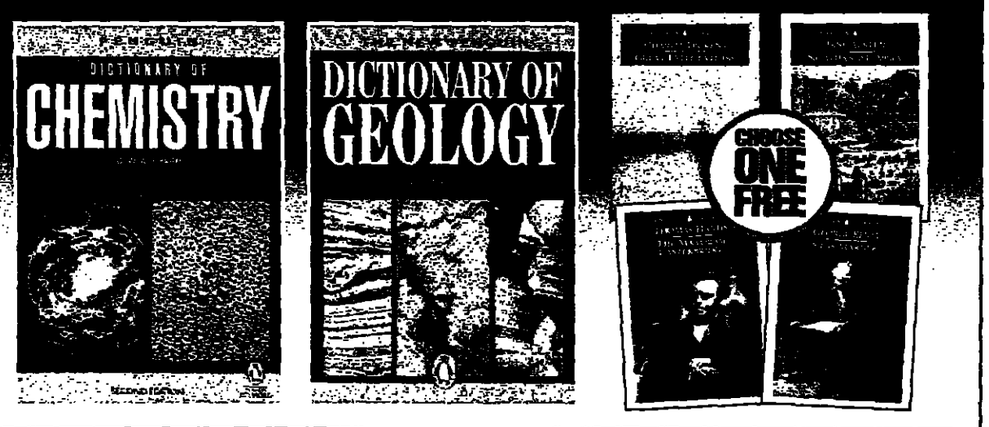
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In the past, a huge party — with much drinking and singing — followed the final harvest

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CHANGING TIMES

A VET WRITES

Q Our elderly rabbit, Thumper, looked dirty and showed signs of irritation round his rear. We were horrified when the vet told us he was being eaten by maggots. Thumper's tail end was clipped and he was washed with a shampoo. He is all right now, but why did this happen? The vet implied we were to blame. In what way?

A Fly-strike occurs when blow flies (bluebottles and greenbottles) lay their eggs on living animals. The flies are attracted by the smell from dirty hair, contaminated with faeces or blood. Thumper's housekeeper was not doing a proper job. He must have had a soiled tail end to attract the flies. This was either the result of a bout of diarrhoea or, more probably, because he had to sit on wet, dirty bedding.

Q Lightning, our whippet-type lurcher, damaged a toe on his front leg several months ago. It took about three weeks for the lameness to go. Since then he has damaged the same toe on three occasions and each time it takes longer to get better. Now we have been advised to have the toe amputated. How much will this affect Lightning?

A Very little. Thousands of racing greyhounds have had a toe removed and won races afterwards — perhaps taking a fifth of a second longer to complete 500 yards. The pad of the injured toe is preserved and it is only the damaged bone that is removed.

Q We bought ten bantams last May. They started to lay almost immediately and have kept us in eggs ever since. But two of them have developed thickened and scaly legs, which they rub on the perches. Sometimes they bleed. What can I do?

A This sounds like scaly leg, caused by a mite called Cnemidocoptes. It can result in permanent lameness if bacteria enter through cracks in the horn and reach the leg joints. An effective treatment is to cover the unfeathered part of the bird's legs with petroleum jelly. This softens the horn, allows dead flakes to fall off and suffocates the mites. Clean the hen house and, if you can house the birds elsewhere overnight, spray the walls and perches with malathion, a garden insecticide. This will deal with mites on the woodwork.

JAMES ALLCOCK

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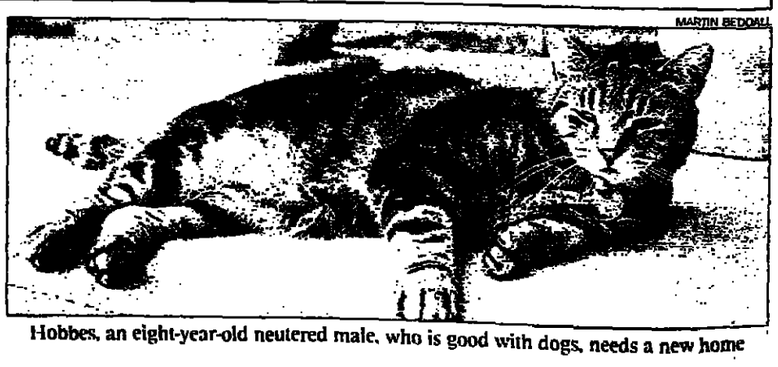
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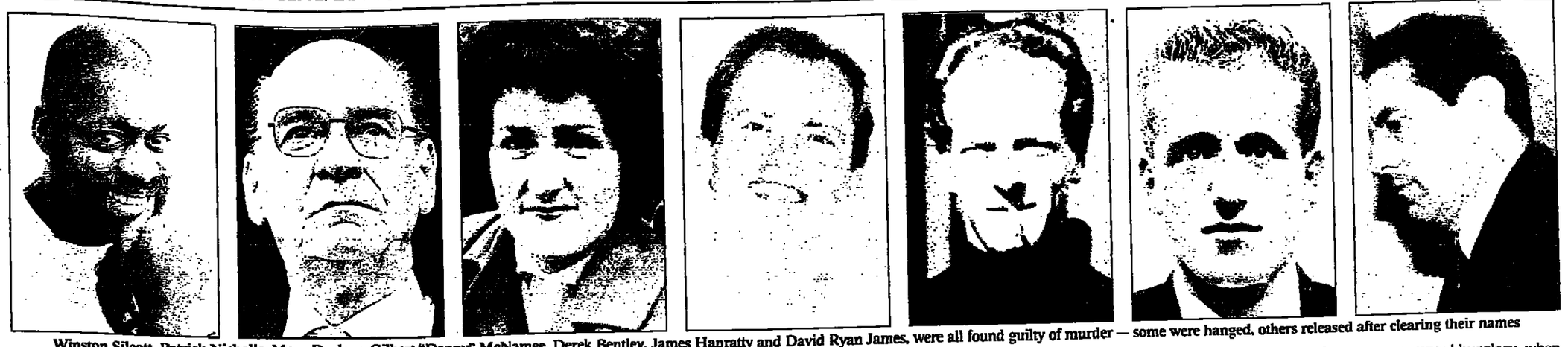
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Winston Silcott, Patrick Nicholls, Mary Druhan, Gilbert "Danny" McNamee, Derek Bentley, James Hanratty and David Ryan James, were all found guilty of murder — some were hanged, others released after clearing their names

VICTIMS OR KILLERS? SEVEN CASES THAT HAVE BEEN REOPENED DUE TO PUBLIC PRESSURE

Winston Silcott, now 38, was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1987 for the murder of PC Keith Blakelock during a riot at Broadwater Farm, north London. His conviction was quashed in March 1991, while he was serving a life sentence for another murder. He received £17,000 compensation from the Home Office for the wrongful conviction.

Patrick Nicholls was convicted for the murder of a 74-year-old woman in 1975. He served 23 years of his sentence and his conviction was quashed in March this year, when he was 70 years old. It was established that the victim had died from natural causes.

Mary Druhan, an alcoholic vagrant, was alleged to have burnt down a derelict building in which two down-and-outs were sheltering. When police discovered that one of the dead men was a former lover of Druhan she was charged with murder. She was convicted in 1989 and handed two concurrent life sentences.

Gilbert "Danny" McNamee was jailed for 25 years for the 1982 Hyde Park bombing in which four members of the Household Cavalry were killed. He was convicted in October 1987 after being described as "the master bomber". He appealed unsuccessfully against his conviction in 1991. His case is now being re-examined by the Appeal Court following claims that forensic evidence is flawed.

James Hanratty was found guilty of the "A6" murder in 1962 and hanged, at the age of 25. Public concern about the execution led to the abolition of the death penalty.

Derek Bentley was hanged in 1953 for the murder of a policeman during an attempted burglary, when he was 19. His conviction was quashed in August this year.

David Ryan James, a Staffordshire vet, was jailed for life on May 25, 1995, after being found guilty of poisoning his wife with a horse sedative. He was freed on July 28 this year after his wife's suicide note was found hidden in an old copy of the *Veterinary Record*.

GUZELIAN

The Downing File has reopened, 25 years late

Stephen Downing was imprisoned for murder 25 years ago. Only now is his case being reviewed as a possible miscarriage of justice, writes **Daniel McGrory**



Roy and Juanita Downing in Bakewell Cemetery, where their son worked and where Wendy Sewell, who allegedly met male friends here, was discovered after the attack

You never see his name on a T-shirt, or any graffiti proclaiming that Stephen Downing is innocent.

He insists he is, but the case of this shy and frightened man was never seized on by celebrity lawyers looking to advance their reputation. So, Downing has sat forgotten for 25 years in various prisons wondering why the authorities refuse to believe he did not kill a woman in a Derbyshire cemetery.

He has been stabbed, raped, scalded with hot water and beaten countless times over the years but, worse says Downing, 42, is that he has been ignored.

Eyewitnesses came forward to testify he had left the graveyard at Bakewell before Mrs Wendy Sewell was bludgeoned to death on September 12, 1973. Forensic experts claim Downing could not have sexually assaulted the woman on a tombstone and a retired detective admitted the barely literate teenager's signed confession on the night of the murder was tainted. Despite all this, Downing has consistently been refused an appeal.

When his parents, Ray and Juanita Downing, were told the Home Office had created a new independent body to investigate miscarriages of justice such as their son's, they applied on his behalf, "more in hope than optimism".

The Downing file was number 97 in front of the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) and Mrs Downing said: "We thought it would just sit there and gather dust".

The Commission admits it is weighed down with work and receives five new cases a day to add to the 1,805 files it received in its first year of operation.

It makes no apology for wanting to grab headlines, which is why one of the first cases it examined was to prove Derek Bentley should not have been hanged for murder 45 years ago.

There was further welcome publicity when it helped free Patrick Nicholls, 23 years after he was wrongly convicted of murder and last month David Ryan James, the Staffordshire vet, walked free from the Appeal Court, cleared of poisoning his wife with a horse sedative.

The commissioners have let it be known they intend to make the case of James Hanratty the next cause célèbre, arguing he too should not have been hanged. They are investigating the murder convictions against notorious figures such as Winston Silcott, cleared of killing PC Keith Blakelock in the Broadwater Farm riots and Jeremy Bamber, who was jailed for killing five members of his adoptive family.

Lawyers with cases at the back of the queue mutter that if you can get your client's case on television with a lurid reconstruction then the commissioners are more likely to sit up and take notice.

The CCRC deny this. They say their priorities depend on whether the alleged victims are still in prison and how long the case file has been on their desk.

A senior officer in the commission said "Of course everyone thinks their case is the greatest injustice of all and we wish we had the manpower and the money to speed up our investigations. But we don't pander to trendy cases or lawyers with the loudest mouths who get themselves in front of the cameras.

"We are also criticised for wasting time on the likes of Bentley who is dead, but their families deserve justice after their loved ones paid the ultimate price," he argues.

The Commission will not divulge how its investigations are progressing but they hope to deliver their verdict on Stephen Downing "within months".

The CCRC don't send cases back to the Court of Appeal unless there is certainty of success, so the Downing family live with guarded hope as they gather at Littlehay prison in Cambridge next weekend for the 25th anniversary of Stephen's conviction. "We have nothing to celebrate and we daren't raise his hopes as he has been crushed so many times. We are not sure how much more he can take," says Mrs Downing.

He would have been given parole long ago but Downing has refused to admit his guilt. "I'm prepared to stay inside all my life if that is what it takes," he said. "I know I'm an innocent man but I don't know why the authorities won't believe me."

He lived with his parents and younger sister, Christine, on a council estate in Bakewell and was what school authorities politely call "a boy with learning difficulties". He left at 15 and went through various menial jobs until he was employed by the urban district council as a gardener working in the cemetery.

Wendy Sewell was in the habit of spending her lunchtimes in the cemetery. Her explanation to colleagues at the Forestry Commission was that she was, "going out for a breath of fresh air," but, this was known to be an excuse for her to meet men. She was reconciled after a separation from her husband, James, but the typist made little secret of her assignations.

About the time she entered the cemetery, Downing was eating his lunch in the unconsecrated chapel at the south end of the graveyard. At about 1.25pm he went to the cemetery lodge to ask for help, saying he had found Mrs Sewell lying half naked across a tombstone. Her skull was caved in and Downing pointed out a pick-axe handle nearby that was covered in blood.

Police noticed that Downing's clothes were stained with blood which he explained happened when he turned the body over to see if she was alive. Wendy Sewell died two days later in hospital without being able to name her killer.

That first night, September 12, Downing was questioned by detectives without a lawyer present and allegedly signed a confession admitting he hit Mrs Sewell on the head and then sexually assaulted her. Lawyers later pointed out that a youth with the reading age of an 11 year old could not have used some of the phrases contained in his confession.

The confession said he hit the woman twice. The autopsy showed she had been struck at least eight times, and there was no evidence of a sexual assault.

Several witnesses told of seeing Mrs Sewell embracing a man in the cemetery. He fled after a second man approached the couple and began shouting at the victim. Two children saw her flaying around the graveyard after she had been attacked.

A teenage girl, Jayne Atkins, came forward to tell how she had seen Downing leave the cemetery while Mrs Sewell was still alive. It was when he returned to the cemetery after changing his boots and talking to his mother that he found the fatally-injured woman.

The jury at Nottingham Crown Court in February, 1974, took barely an hour to reach their guilty verdict and Mr Justice Nield told Downing he had been convicted, "on the clearest evidence".

Don Hale, editor of the Matlock Mercury, who is convinced of Downing's innocence, told how a detective working on the investigation supports evidence that a former lover of Mrs Sewell was seen in the cemetery and later lied about his alibi.

"It is inconceivable Stephen is still in jail, the longest serving prisoner now to be detained at Her Majesty's Pleasure. Let us hope the Commission do him justice and succeed where so many have failed him," Mr Hale said.

Technically, the commission should return Downing's file unopened. They are seen as a last resort where all other legal avenues have been exhausted. Downing still hasn't been allowed an appeal hearing.

However, a spokesman for the commission said: "We do look at exceptional cases and 25 years in prison would justify us examining Downing's file".

Just as the commissioners turn their attention to Stephen Downing, so has television. A BBC 2 documentary on his case will be shown next tuesday, which his lawyers hope will air the arguments for his immediate freedom, but will bring pain for the Downing family.

His mother said: "It reminds us that Stephen has been robbed of 25 years. He cries when he tells us he has lost any chance of having a wife and children.

"He doesn't want half an hour's fame on television. He wants his life back, what is left of it".







Wendy Sewell, who was murdered in Bakewell Cemetery in 1973

Left, Stephen as he is today. He cannot get parole because of his refusal to admit to the crime. Right, Stephen at 17

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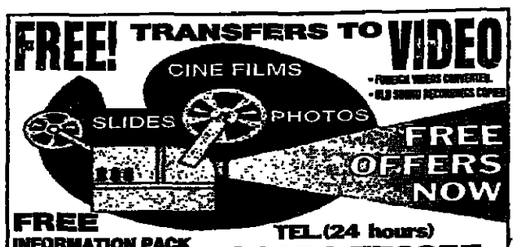
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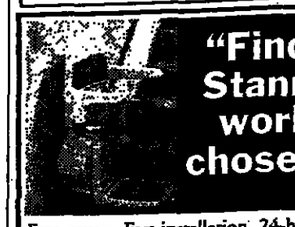
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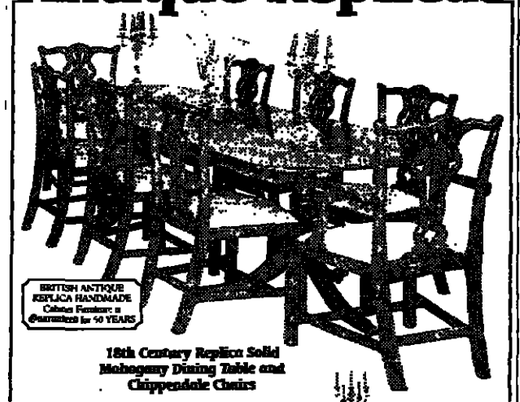
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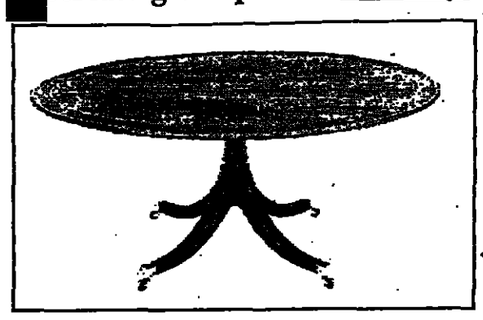
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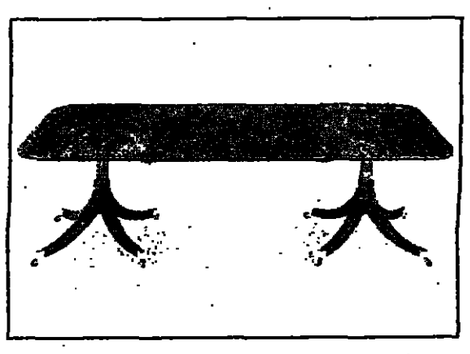
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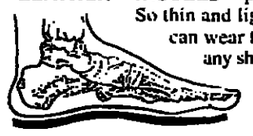
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For this week's challenge, **David Bowker** confronts his bulging post bag — but all is not pretty prose

The Who's who of nutters

I don't know why, but I have always been extremely popular with the mentally unbalanced. In this column a few weeks ago, I happened to mention a fan letter that I received from Mr K. Childs, of Stockport. The letter started well by comparing me to a god *in human* form who rides through the literary firmament on a flaming chariot. But Mr Childs let himself down in the postcript by asking if I liked *Doctor Who*. For this I called Mr Childs "a nutter".

Last Monday, I received the following extraordinary response. "By insulting a television programme that has brought pleasure to millions of people throughout the world, you have reduced *The Times* to the level of the gutter press. I hope you are satisfied. *The Times* is traditionally the paper that the top people read. This doesn't mean that top people write for it. You are not a top person, in fact far from it." Amazingly enough, the letter ended with: "In case you're interested, my favourite Doctor was Tom Baker."

I was so amazed by this that I immediately blasted off a reply. "Dear Mr Childs, I may not have a hope of being top but at least I am not a raving madman. However, I agree that Tom Baker was by far the best Doctor. And my favourite monsters were the Daleks."

My most depressing letter came from Mr C.J. Bromley, of New Eltham, who informed me that he enjoyed the column but thought "the challenge about complaining was easily the best". That challenge was the first and appeared on February 21. There have been 28 columns since then. Thanks for nothing, Bromley.

Other readers have written in with their own suggestions for challenges. These have included jumping off tall buildings, picking fights with professional boxers and going to the gas chamber in the Virginia State Penitentiary.

All very colourful, I am sure, but rather difficult to describe after the event. Writing to compliment me on the column about missing the point (June 27, 1998), Mr Richard Jeffrey, from Hong Kong, missed the point on a cosmic scale by offering to be my full-time collaborator. "I have many ideas for articles, stories, etc. You have the contacts and the talent. Why not work together, you doing the writing and me coming up with the ideas? We could share the money 50-50. Sound good?" On Wednesday, I replied: "Dear Mr Jeffrey: I've got a better suggestion. Why don't you get a job in a factory, working for 80 hours a week? As this was my idea, you could give me half your salary. Sound good?"

SEVEN LONG DAYS



The next day, I received yet another epistle from Mr Childs. He said: "I might have known that you would have been unimaginative enough to go for the Daleks. What about the Ice Warriors or Cybermen? What is it about you journalists? Why do you always have to be so pathetically obvious?" I thought this was a bit strong. I decided to pay Mr Childs a home visit, to see if he was as deranged as he sounded.

Because of the tone of his letters, I had expected Mr Childs to be a curmudgeonly old git. But the door was answered by an attractive woman who turned out to be his mum. She asked me in for a cup of tea. Mr Childs, or Kevin as his mum calls him, was watching a *Doctor Who* video. He was fresh-faced and pleasant. He cannot have been more than 20. When I introduced myself, he blushed and apologised for the abusive mail.

Kevin's mum went out, leaving us alone. He poured me a sherry and asked what the other *Times* columnists were like. I told him that I had only met Will Self, who struck me as far too tall. Just as I was beginning to relax, Kevin took me to see the garden shed. "What do you think of my Tardis?" he asked.

"Very nice," I replied cautiously. What else could I say? It was just a shed.

"It's a beauty, isn't it," he beamed. "Do you want to look inside?" Deciding to humour the poor lad, I stepped in. Instantly, he bolted the door from the outside, then danced around triumphantly, humming the *Doctor Who* theme tune.



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Calligraphy; The Faust legend in music; Creative watercolours for beginners; Lettercarving in stone. At West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811301). Price per course £156, residential.

SEPTEMBER 25-27

Fungus fun. At the Field Studies Council Centre, Nettlecombe Court, Taunton, Somerset (01984 640320). Price £133 residential, £108 non-residential.

First World War battles; Chinese brush painting; Honiton lacemaking. At Alston Hall Residential College, Preston, Lancashire (01772 784661). Price £100 residential, £75 non-residential.

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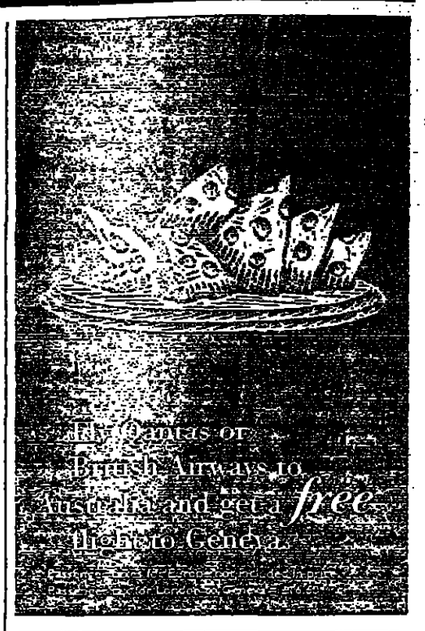
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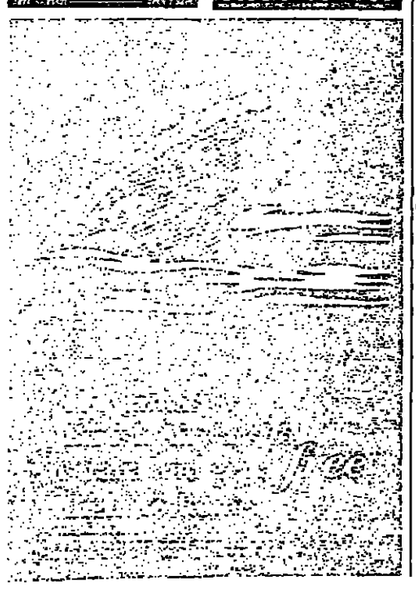
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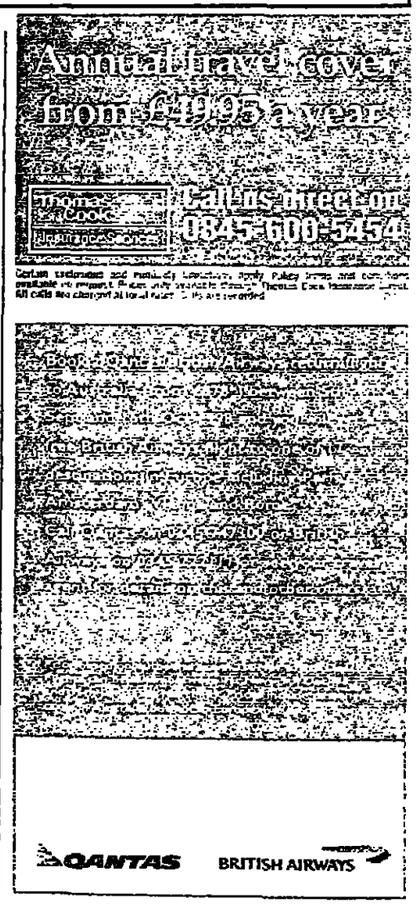
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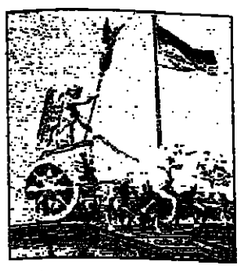
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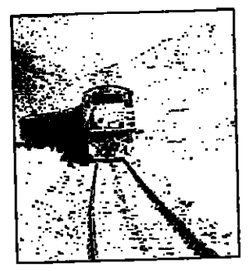
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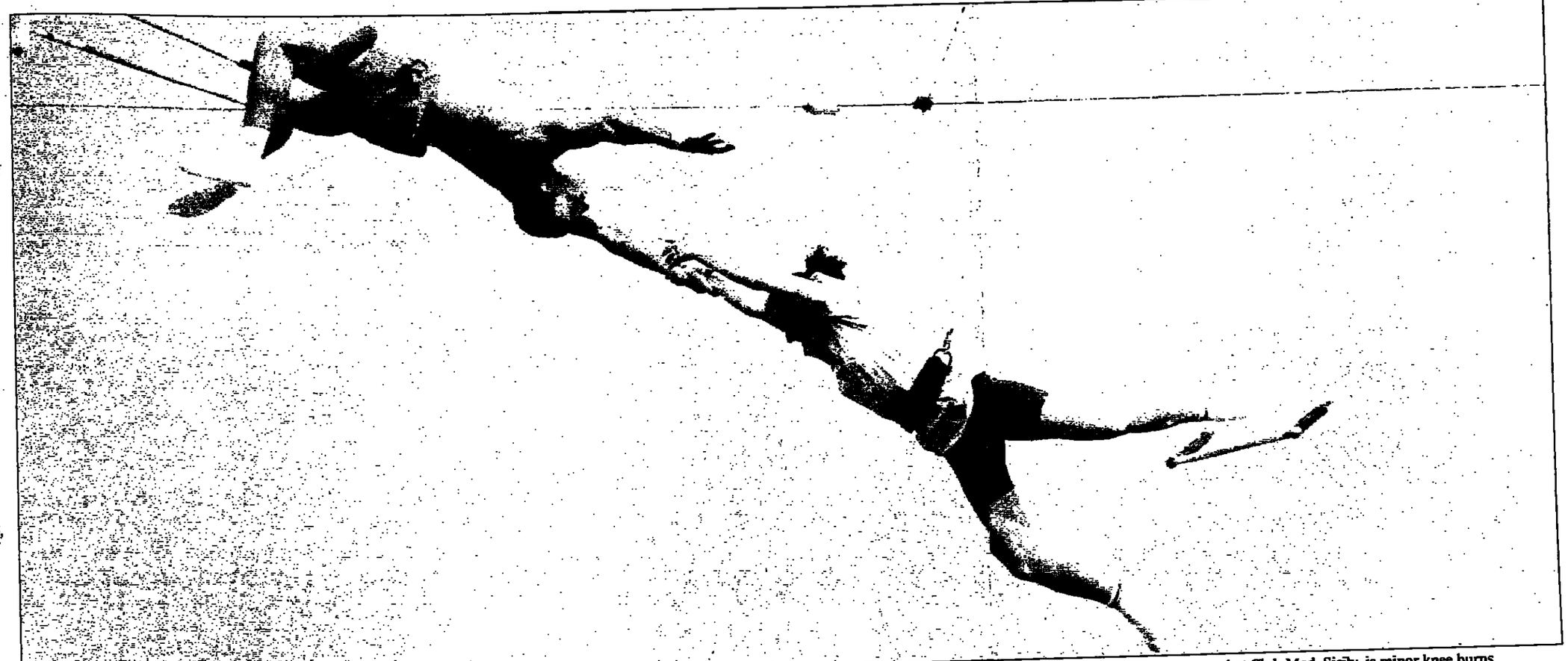
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Club Med lays on everything you could want but, as **Graham Duffill** dicovers, some things are best left to the kids

Going with the swing in Sicily

NIGEL TISDALL



Learning the art of the acrobats of the high trapeze gives the impression of great danger but with expert help, even adults pick up the techniququickly. The worst that has happened at Club Med, Sicily, is minor knee burns

There are certain things that only children should do. The Flying Trapeze is most definitely one of them.

Children clearly have no understanding of the consequences of falling 40 feet on to marble from the narrow ladder that sways at the top. Otherwise, why would they stand up there beaming like athletes on the winner's podium?

Thirty feet below is a safety net which the brain blocks out, registering only the marble slabs a further 10ft down. Next to me stands Yoyo, and ahead, swinging on an extremely high trapeze, is Momo. I am grateful the only member of the crew with a sensible name, Frédéric, is the one holding the safety line attached to the belt around my waist.

This is the Club Med circus school at Kamarina in Sicily — one of 18 worldwide which teaches adults and children the arts of juggling, trampolining, the trapeze and generally making clowns of themselves. Another two schools are exclusively for children.

Strangely enough, "circus" is one of the safest sports at Club Med. Worse things happen at sea, as I discovered, when the inflatable rescue boat arrived to pluck me from a windsurf board which had washed so far down the beach that satellite navigation should have been fitted.

On another day, I found out that the blustery winds off the southern coast of Sicily do make fine sailing weather — until you sit on the upturned hull of your catamaran as it drifts into the busy shipping lanes of North Africa.

A long and finger-blistering fight with a rope eventually allowed me to haul the catamaran onto its side. But, as it came crashing over, ferocious winds filled the sails and the boat took off like a winged beast. They rescued me, again, of course, and the kids pretended that I was no relation of theirs. Expect no loyalty from an embarrassed family.

Normally in Club Med you pack the kids off to the Mini Club, forget about them until the evening and get a great suntan. But to our children, while Club Med is the apogee of a holiday, Mini Club is strictly à la carte: "I'll do the archery and trampolining, but not the swimming and the painting."

So, unfortunately, they were around for the worst bits. "You see that rescue boat," Mum would say as an inflatable bounced over the waves with incredible speed. Kids nodded, squinting into the sun. "That'll be for your dad."

Socially, Kamarina was a desert. The throbbing disco music pounded out over the sea, all flashing lights and empty disco floor, although it was school holidays and only parents of kids of a certain age



Swing shift: Duffill prepares for death-defying heroics

were there. There is no point gyrating around in front of other people's husbands and wives. It is the only Club Med I have been to where GOs (the gentilles organisateurs, or youngsters having a year off to teach this or that to Club Med clients) have to be dragooned on to the dance floor to give the place some life.

Kamarina is not helped by its awkward layout, with some definite calls for renovation. Club Med has occupied the site for 16 years, making it one of the oldest, large clubs. Its 245 acres mean a lot of trudging, especially to the two beaches, but equally it can hide 2,000 people without it feeling crowded — apart from at the most popular restaurants. But the stone houses that contain the apartments, however attractive, are painfully small. However, next year the site is due to be rebuilt. As usual, we arrived at a Club Med site — this one near Gela, two hours from Catania airport — intending to explore the surrounding countryside, but never broke free. Marion and the children, seven-year-old twins Katrin and Jessica, did take one of the scheduled tours to Mt Etna, but the 6am departure convinced me the unpredictability of an eruption made it unsafe.

Jessica, left, and Katrin Duffill soak up the Sicilian sun

And so it was on the flying trapeze that I staked my plan to recapture some of the lost credibility of all those boat rescues. The children went on it in the morning, little shrimps hauled high into the air, swinging with great abandon.

In the afternoon it was our turn. Four of us formed the core of regulars: a bean-pole Frenchman, a German woman in Lycra, a girl of about 12 and myself. Beanpole and Lycra were already accomplished when I began. They could already swing upside down by their legs (knee-hang), catch the arms of Momo on the other trapeze, swing back up, release, and turn to catch their trapeze again.

The worst bit is knee-hang. You have to be thinnish and athletic to be able to tuck your feet under the bar within one swing lasting a couple of seconds at most. The tops of your feet scrape on the abrasive tape on the bar as you pull them through and by the end of the day are bleeding.

At first the bar hurts the back of your knees and you are not sure they can support the whole weight of your body.

A second later you are at the top of the swing again and there staring you in the face, but upside down, is Momo. You cannot touch fingers but release your legs, stretch out and hopefully there is a clap of hands on wrists.

If not, you do an impression of a cartoon character who has run over the edge of a cliff as you pause in the air before beginning to paddle helplessly with arms and legs. Frédéric helps to break the fall with the safety rope and you land gently in the safety net.

This is presumably one of the big advantages of the trapeze to Club Med. It provides big thrill with huge perception of danger at low operating cost and with no significant accidents. Yoyo, who has been doing it for years, says it is 100 per cent safe and has had an 80-year-old on the trapeze.

The worse incident happened to a boy who only managed a finger grip with Momo. He was thrown into the landing net and had a couple of small rope burns on his knees.

After three days I managed the full knee-hang, catch and return, turning to find the elusive bar. The crowd applauded and I did a fancy back-flip into the safety net.

They might have cheered on the beach as well. With the thrill of the flying trapeze in the blood, I won't be needing that rescue boat again.



If you don't like heights, ther poolside fun

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Graham Duffill travelled with Club Med (0171-581 1161). Seven nights' all-inclusive holidays, including watersports, return flights, transfers and taxes at Club Med at Kamarina, Sicily, start at £561 per adult, £298 for a child, departing every Saturday, until October 17. Also available until then, two fly for the price of one. Kamarina reopens on March 28 when seven nights' all inclusive start at £542 per person. Scheduled flights, instead of charter, can be arranged through Club Med — seven nights' all-inclusive breaks then start at £624 per person.

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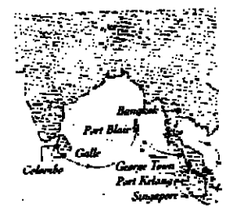
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Day 7 The Andaman Islands
Day 8 Cruise towards the Malaysian peninsula
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Days 13&14 Relax at sea
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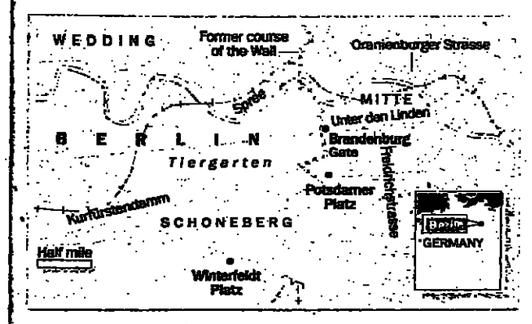
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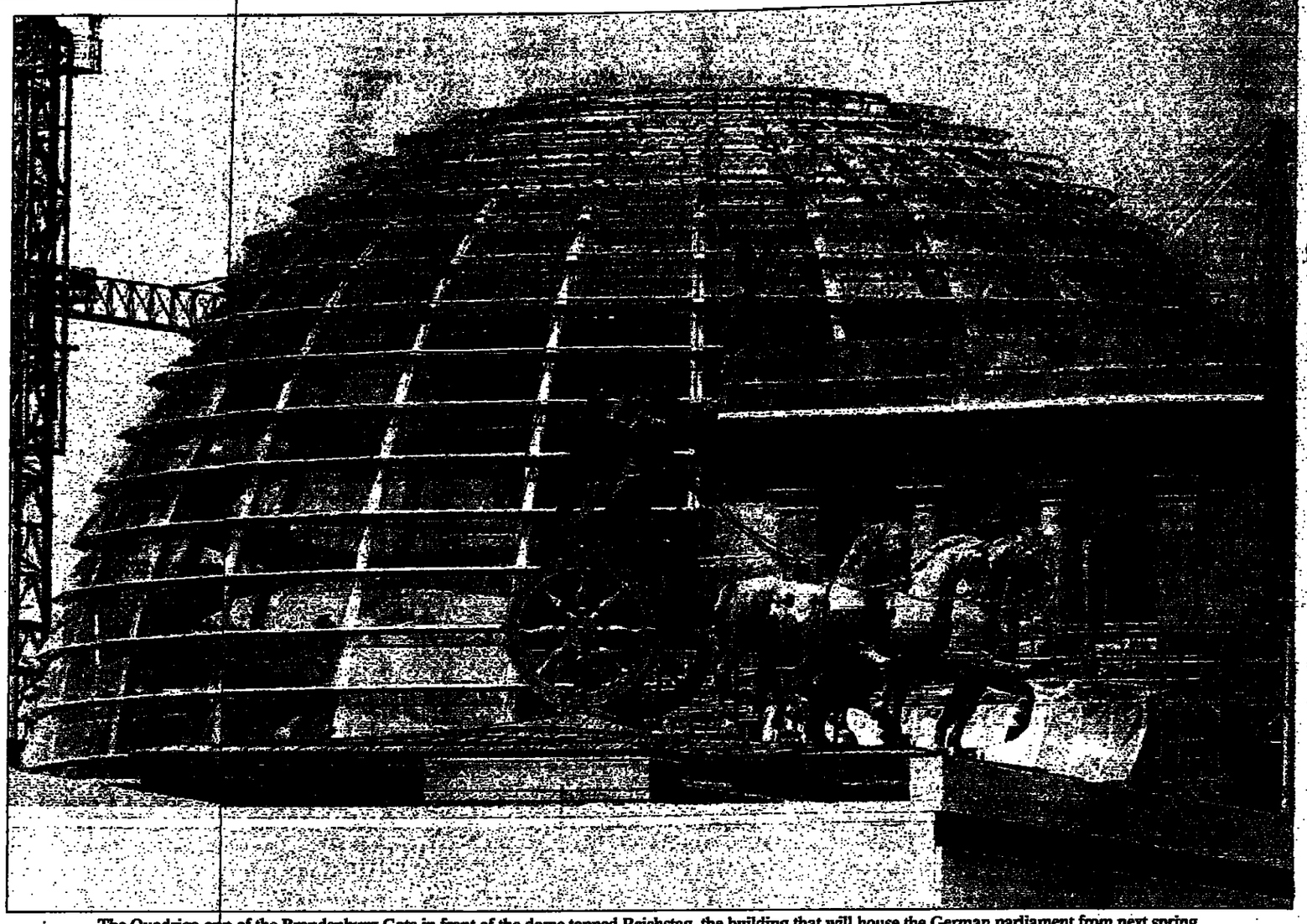
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A broken heart on the mend

As the German parliament moves to Berlin, the city hopes tourists will follow, writes Jeannette Hyde



FABRIZIO BENSCH

The Quadriga on top of the Brandenburg Gate in front of the dome-topped Reichstag, the building that will house the German parliament from next spring

Berlin was a city of mystery, intrigue and tension for visitors during the Cold War. Crossing Checkpoint Charlie and comparing the austerity of the East with the luxury of the West was often a reason for visiting.

Berlin has been trying to persuade visitors to return ever since it dismantled its biggest tourist attraction.

When the Berlin Wall disappeared, so did the tourists. Think of most leading cities and you can picture where to start — the Eiffel Tower, the Tower of London, the Statue of Liberty. But Berlin is, at first glance, a sightseeing desert.

West Berlin is like any other part of Germany — clean, orderly and modern. The East is a sea of cranes, pink pipes (for draining water from building sites) and empty streets of tall old "Plattenbau" prefab tower blocks, interspersed with derelict, bullet-ridden buildings with skips outside. With the wall gone, the Brandenburg Gate is just an arch with buses and taxis whizzing through.

Visitor numbers are now creeping up again, mainly because of the hype the city has generated to encourage Germans to see their soon-to-be capital in the making — the Bundestag, Germany's parliament, is moving from Bonn next year. This excitement will reach a peak next month when the city's former focal point of the 1920s, Potsdamer Platz, is reopened on October 2, the eve of the celebrations marking the reunification of Germany.

I have recently been to Berlin six times and only just begun to overcome my prejudices. Very slowly the excitement that people have for Berlin, especially among young people, has infected me.

The turning point in my attitude to Berlin came when my boyfriend and I stayed at the famous Hotel Adlon, which was resurrected a year ago, based on the original which burnt down in 1945. This was not because it is such great design — it is a mixture of German contemporary (simple, almost minimalist furnishings) mixed with turn-of-the-century touches such as traditional white starched linen and mahogany fittings — but because this was the first time I had stayed in the east of the city. It was also the first time I began truly to understand what the new, united Berlin is all about.

One thing that was immediately noticeable is that you are almost never out of earshot of a pneumatic drill; superficially annoying, but also a constant reminder of the state of flux in which the city exists.

Most of this noise came from an important building site across the road from the Adlon, the Reichstag, which is due to be completed by April 1999. A huge glass dome, designed by English architect Sir Norman Foster, is under construction; it is due to be completed in time for the Bundestag's arrival.



IMPACT

All that's left of the Berlin wall on the Neiderkirchnerstrasse. Most has been demolished

The Reichstag is on the Unter den Linden, soon to be the most politically important street in Germany (as this is where the Bundestag will move to). However, when we went down to look at its U-bahn (Tube station) in mid-morning, it was empty. It is a perfectly preserved pre-Second World War station.

Everywhere was almost eerily quiet: how many capital cities are this empty in the middle of the day? We walked up the Unter den Linden to Friedrichstrasse, the east's equivalent of Knightsbridge. Every designer label shop is represented in beautifully restored buildings, the centre attraction of which is the Galeries Lafayette — a far cry from ten years ago when East Berlin's shops were bare.

Now the shops are full of goods but there are hardly any people. You get excellent service because the shop assistants are not busy and, better still, the prices are good value for British visitors because of the favourable exchange rate.

A short walk from the Adlon, we stumbled across Mauergedenk Stätte, on the corner of Ackerstrasse and Bernaver Strasse, an area of land along the old East-West city partition on which a section of the wall still stands. There is also a watchtower and a 10-metre stretch of a former minefield; there are plans to restore the area to its exact state during the Cold War, to act as a reminder of how things were.

Visiting it, I was suddenly struck by how much Berlin has changed over the past decade. All the tension that was once there has now vanished.

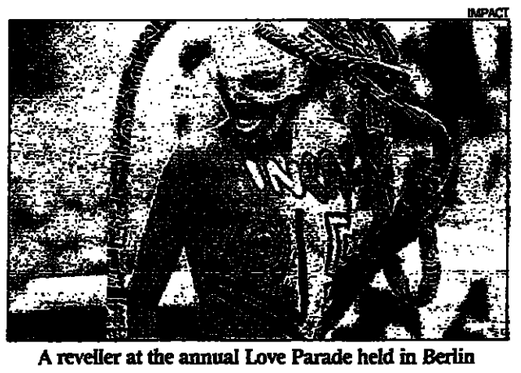
Also near the hotel, on Bebelplatz on Unter den Linden, we came across the Monument of Büderverbrennung, a hole in the ground containing a library with empty white shelves protected from the elements by a see-through glass paving stone. It was at this place that the Nazis burnt 20,000 books on May 10, 1933.

Lying in the no-man's-land between east and west is Potsdamer Platz — Europe's biggest building site. In its heyday in the 1920s, it was the busiest square in Europe.

A brilliant exhibition in a giant red Portacabin called "Info Box" explains the site to between 5,000 and 10,000 visitors a day. The architects, their plans and the whole vision of Berlin in the future is portrayed in models, plans and films.

Since reunification nine years ago, the square has become a showpiece for the future of Berlin, with every famous architect in the world asked to design a building there. The project is led by Renzo Piano and Christoph Kohlbecker. The first section includes the glittering Daimler-Benz headquarters and the Grand Hyatt hotel, which will open on October 2. But this is just a third of the development — the cranes will be here until at least 2004 finishing the rest.

Nevertheless, in the midst of all this flux, Berlin is still Germany's most exciting and alternative city. The giant Love Parade that takes place every June symbolises this: the floats glide through the city bearing half-naked youngsters dancing to pounding techno music. In many parts of the city, green hair and body piercing are *de rigueur*. A walk round Mitte, the east's up and coming area, is full of avant-garde, punkish types.



IMPACT

A reveller at the annual Love Parade held in Berlin

In Mitte, large buildings have been converted into fashionable flats, artists' studios and cool bars. Pavement cafés selling nouveau German food rub shoulders with kebab shops and squats; it is strangely reminiscent of trendier parts of North London.

We found the best way to find an interesting bar was to look for a skip. Find a street that has piles of sand, cement mixers and skips and you will often find bars have sprung up in nearby derelict buildings. They usually stay for a few weeks before the builders move in. If you hear techno music and see the flicker of candlelight, you have found a *hof* (yard) party.

Michael Nerz, who has lived in Berlin for 40 years, said: "Berlin has always attracted the alternative crowd. During the Cold War, you could escape military service by moving to Berlin. I did just that. The Government was desperate for people to live here so this was one way of attracting them to come.

"It was like living on an island. If you lived in West Berlin you could not go out to the countryside without great difficulty. You were locked in."

Winterfeldt Platz is still the trendiest hangout in west Berlin. After the Saturday morning market, middle-aged in-line skaters manoeuvre around the block while everybody else gets drunk in Slumberland, a sawdust-on-the-floor place that smells of marijuana, on the Platz corner.

One of the most annoying things about Germany is that the shops close at 2pm on a Saturday for the whole weekend, so there is little chance of a lie-in. But if you do get up in time there are some great shops along the Goltz Strasse (near Winterfeldt Platz) selling antiques and fishnet clothes alongside cheap Asian pavement restaurants.

Berlin seems to be getting itself together, both literally and metaphorically. I had expected to be bored, but instead discovered the beginnings of a vibrant city with plenty to see and explore. The wall with its cloak-and-dagger mystery and intrigue has gone; but Berlin lives on.

OUT AND ABOUT IN BERLIN

■ **Getting there:** Jeannette Hyde flew with AB Airlines (0345 464748) from Gatwick to Schoenefeld in the east of the city. Return fares start at £145 this month.
British Airways (0345 222111) flies from Heathrow to Tegel airport in the west. Return fares start at £191.80 this month.
For discounted flights and tailor-made packages try the German Travel Centre (0181-429 2900).

■ **Where to stay:** Jeannette Hyde stayed at the Hotel Adlon. Rooms start from £145 a night and include full use of the spa. Rooms can be booked by calling Kempinski Hotels & Resorts (0800 868588).
The Grand Hyatt Berlin (0845-758 1666) opens in Potsdamer Platz on October 2. An introductory room rate of £93 per night is available until February 28.

■ **Where to eat:** Sale e Tabacchi (00 49 30 252 1155), in Kochstrasse (near the old Checkpoint Charlie) is a reasonably priced modern Italian restaurant and bar (about £20 a head).
Hackesche Hoef is an area in the east, converted from a market into an area of restaurants serving lighter modern German food. In mild weather most have outside tables.
Look out for Thai Imbiss, a small café, on Goltz Strasse. Stand-up cheap food at McDonald's prices.



A typical 'alternative' bar

■ **Getting around:** Underground (U-bahn) and overground (S-bahn) trains are easy. A daily pass covering both, plus buses, costs £2.60.

■ **Reading:** *Germany* (Lonely Planet, £13.99); *Berlin* (Time Out, £9.99); *Fatherland*, by Robert Harris (HarperCollins, £5.95); *The Spy who Came in From the Cold*, by John Le Carré (Hodder & Staughton, £6.99); *The Gift*, by Vladimir Nabokov (Vintage, £7.99); *Berlin — A Guide To Recent Architecture*, by Duane Phillips (Ellipsis, £5.95).

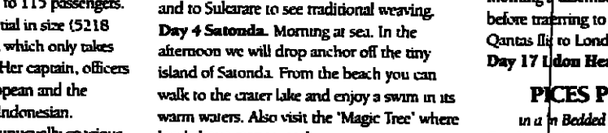
■ **More information:** German National Tourist Office (0171-317 0908).

cities FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Sail in an easterly direction from the island of Bali to the exotic islands that will form the stepping stones on our journey to Australia's magnificent Barrier Reef. On the way we will encounter the dragons of Komodo, the crater lake of Satonda, the spectacular reef system of Kalabia (which is also one of the most important bird breeding islands of Indonesia), the spice island of Banda, the rain-forest covered islands of New Guinea's Triton Bay and eventually - Australia.

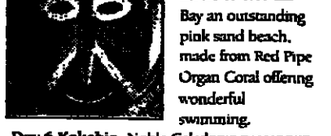
Before arriving at the Barrier Reef we shall navigate through the beautiful islands of the Torres Strait, an area of over 70 tropical islands set in the abundant waters of the Coral Sea. Stopping at Thursday Island to learn something of the traditional life of the inhabitants before following the Queensland coastline to Flinders Island. The last two days of the journey will be spent cruising just off the Barrier Reef, where seemingly endless coral reefs abound with the most varied marine-life imaginable.

At the Barrier Reef we will take to our zodiacs. There will be opportunities to swim and snorkel in this truly wonderful environment.



Bali to the Barrier Reef

A 15 DAY CRUISE FROM THE ISLANDS EAST OF BALI TO THE BARRIER REEF & CAIRNS
24th November to 10th December 1998
with Graham Bell & Sally Ann Wilson



THE OCEANIC ODYSSEY

Designed in Holland and built in Japan in 1989 the 'Oceanic Odyssey' is a small deluxe vessel accommodating up to 115 passengers. She is remarkably substantial in size (5218 gross tonnage) for a vessel which only takes just over 100 passengers. Her captain, officers and management are European and the service staff and crew are Indonesian.

All cabins are outside, unusually spacious, elegantly furnished with either twin or queen sized beds and a living area with sofa. There is excellent wardrobe space, mini bar and VCR. The bathrooms are spacious and have tub baths. Cabins on deck 3 have port holes, whilst all other decks have windows. The deck 6 cabins have small private verandas and decks 3 to 6 are served by a passenger lift. All cabins have individual air-conditioner controls and all public areas have air-conditioning.



The public areas are beautifully decorated and include a large main lounge and bar, a cafe and day lounge which leads out onto the Lido area, Lido Bar, library, gymnasium, 2 saunas (male and female), swimming pool, Jacuzzi, hairdresser, shop and a clinic with a full time doctor. The single sitting dining room is large, bright and airy and the galley serves delicious meals. The open deck areas are vast and there are shaded areas on the Lido area with comfortable loungers

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London Heathrow to Bali, mid-morning departure with Singapore Airlines via Singapore.
Day 2 Bali. Arrive mid-morning. Afternoon embark the Oceanic Odyssey. Sail in the evening.
Day 3 Lombok. The atmosphere here is similar to that of Bali some 30 years ago prior to the tourism boom. Drive through the beautiful scenery to Kuta and Wayala Beach and to Sukarare to see traditional weaving.
Day 4 Satonda. Morning at sea. In the afternoon we will drop anchor off the tiny island of Satonda. From the beach you can walk to the crater lake and enjoy a swim in its warm waters. Also visit the 'Magic Tree' where locals hang stones, each one representing a wish. There is excellent swimming and snorkelling from the beach.
Day 5 Komodo. On this nature reserve island we will walk to the feeding site of the Komodo Dragon, the largest lizard on earth, with adult dragons weighing in at over 300 lbs. Time permitting sail across to Toro Lia Bay an outstanding pink sand beach, made from Red Pipe Organ Coral offering wonderful swimming.
Day 6 Kakabia. Noble Caledonia passengers discovered this tiny raised fossil reef island in 1994 and we are looking forward to a second visit. This uninhabited island attracts large colonies of breeding birds, redfooted boobies, greater frigate birds, whimbrels, spotted sandpapers and many more, its shoreline is also dotted with sea turtle nests. Snorkelling is highly recommended.
Day 7 At sea.
Day 8 Banda Islands. Famous for their volcanic scenery, lovely beaches and traces of Dutch colonial architecture, these islands at one time lay at the centre of the spice trade route. Enjoy a walk through the nutmeg groves or swim from one of the lovely untouched beaches.
Day 9 At sea.
Day 10 Triton Bay. A morning ashore to explore this remote region of New Guinea on the 'Vogelkop' or 'birds head' peninsula. From the Zodiacs we can explore a spectacular cluster of forest covered limestone islands. Eroded by the sea, they are shaped like huge green mushrooms rising from the wa These rich shallow waters are an important breeding ground for many fish, sharks, rays d salt-water crocodiles. The bird-life is a fascinating and hopefully we will see the rdinary, Papuan hornbills, white-bellied ea eagles and black cockatoos.
Days 11 & At sea.
Day 13 To s Strait. In the afternoon we will call int hursday Island which acted as an import coaling station in the last century. M recently it was known for the visits made large pearling fleets. Visit Greenhill I and Museum and hopefully see a dance pe mance by the Saibai Island Warriors. T aboriginal culture here is remarkabl fferent to the mainland.
Days 14 & 5 Barrier Reef. We have two days to e re the Barrier Reef between Cape Melville a Cairns. We will explore this lush area with amazing diversity of flora and fauna.
Day 16 Cr s to London. Arrive in the morning a disembark. Morning city tour before tra ring to the airport for the Qantas fli to London via Singapore.
Day 17 L don Heathrow. Morning arrival.

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Ibiza's first dance scene

It's not just ravers who lose themselves in Ibiza. **John Roberts** finds flamenco dancers living alongside hippies who arrived in the Sixties and never left

BRITISH vice-consul on Ibiza, Michael Birkett, resigned his post this week, blaming the degenerate behaviour of young Britons visiting the island for its clubbing culture. Their drunken antics appalled Mr Birkett.

But the allure of all-night clubbing reflects the generation gap. Just four months ago, Mr Birkett, 51, said: "I was a child of the Sixties. Ibiza owes itself to the hippies who originally came here."

He should hope that history doesn't repeat itself; many of the hippies who visited Ibiza 30 years ago never left the island.

Ibiza first opened up to tourism in the Sixties and Seventies when it was discovered by hippies who fell in love with its beautiful mountains, coves and white-washed villages.

And, despite the build up of noisy clubs and bars in resorts such as San Antonio, many of these attractions are still there to be explored. All you need is a car, or bus, and the willpower to get off the nearest beach.

I steered clear of the resorts and searched out the less well-known spots. My first goal was to witness the *ibicenco*, a high-kicking local dance considered to be Europe's oldest known form of dance. But, unfortunately, the only place you can see it is on Thursday evenings when the dancers practise for an hour at the 14th-century San Miguel church. I heard about it on Friday.

But I was in luck. Driving northwards to visit a market at C'an Sort, run by leftover hippies who stayed in Ibiza after visiting on holiday, I bumped into several figures in full traditional costume. The men in bright red floppy hats, coloured waistcoats and white trousers; the women in ornate beaded bodices dripping with heavy gold chains, shawls and long, black, hooped skirts.

Amazingly these were the very dancers I'd heard about. And they were on their way to the same hippy market I was seeking and due to perform at a party to celebrate the market's first anniversary.

I followed them along a rutted cart-track that ran between rough stone walls, past olive groves, orchards of lemon and oranges and fields full of crops, then up into the mountain foothills to a group of old stone farm buildings.



REDFERNS

Today's generation come to Ibiza to drink and dance



A clubber warms up

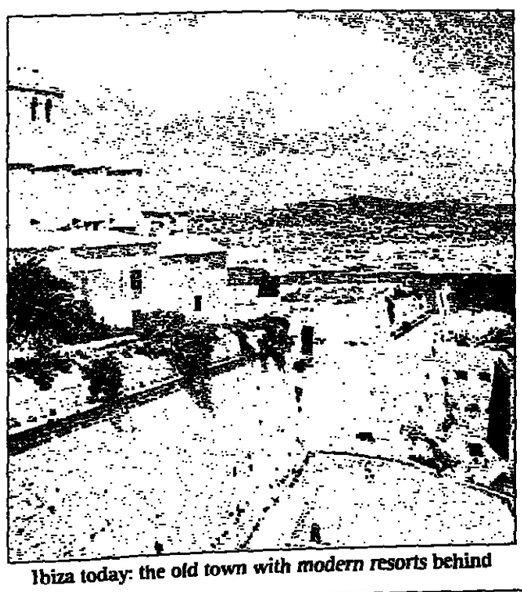
Here, every Saturday, middle-aged, sun-bleached characters — *Germans mostly* — sell their rural wares: pots of honey, herbal remedies, jams, brownies and cakes. Dressed in flowing muslin, with headbands, sandals and beads, these are hippy survivors who *have had enough private money* to survive.

Lunch was available so I tucked into a £3 helping of succulent quiche, salad, olives and delicious rice with mint, washed down with freshly squeezed orange juice.

Also provided was bread, made and baked on the spot by a British couple, Julian and Carole Griffiths, who are both originally from Devon and Yorkshire and work a 35-hectare organic fruit and vegetable farm in the hills.

The couple sell their produce through the market. Julian said: "We've been here 11 years now. Nothing would drag us back to Britain."

We sat in silence under the trees admiring the views across fields to the mountains as the 12 dancers performed to the beat of a drum and the clicking of castanets.



Ibiza today: the old town with modern resorts behind

The men performed whirling, high kicking movements while the girls glided slowly and gracefully around them in their wide skirts. The style is said to date back 2,000 years.

The next night we returned for a strange evening under the trees for a concert by the hippies' favourite party group, Desert Wind, which plays Balkan, Turkish and Middle-Eastern airs on flute, guitar, tom toms and the ude (an ancient stringed instrument). It was a long way from San Antonio's booming night-life.

> 'In a rickety shelter in a cliff cave, a hermit prays for the world'

Portinatx, a little bay village, where we were staying, had plenty of bars with names like Vincent's Pub and Del Boy's (English football on satellite TV). Thanks to our car, we were able to escape to quieter villages.

One day we went on a boat trip from San Antonio to the mysterious island of Es Vedra — Bali Hai in the film classic *South Pacific*, and known locally as Mountain of the Gods. The island loomed sheer from the sea, reaching up 382 metres into swirling clouds and mist. It is inhabited by 40 mountain goats and, in the summer, falcons from Madagascar. Some people who want to be completely alone camp here at weekends.

The seas around Ibiza — with no sewage dumped in them — are superbly clear. Our boat was glass-bottomed so we were able to pull up in bays and view multi-coloured fish. We looked in at Playa Cala Bassa, one of the best sweeps of sand. In a cliff cave, a hermit has built a rickety shelter in which he prays for the world (boatmen regularly drop off food for him). "Last time we saw him," boomed a rep over the boat's mike, "he came out with no clothes on." He'd probably seen British tourists doing the same.

The coast is dotted with 350-year-old defence-towers, where fires were once lit on top to warn of invasion, and cliffs are honeycombed with smugglers' caves. The boat nosed into one where steps were hewn through solid rock to the clifftop above.

One balmy Sunday evening we drove into San Carles, a one-street town, which has a lively Saturday market, a maze of clothes racks, bargain leather goods and jewellery. This time we wanted to see some local flamenco. And in a bar's garden, from 10pm until midnight, for a £2.50 entrance fee, we found it with two fiery, finger-clicking, foot-stomping girl dancers accompanied by men on guitars.

There is also, of course, Ibiza Town itself. I visited twice on the holiday, crossing the drawbridge on foot and climbing high up narrow and steep cobbled streets into the old city. Black-clad old women disappeared into houses sunk into the walls as they must have for hundreds of years.

Safely back down in the main part of town, at a restaurant hidden away from the harbour side tourist traps, I had lunch with a bottle of wine for £3. Much of Ibiza's charm is idling over pleasant restaurant meals. Tapas are strangely scarce on Iziba, but there are some fantastically creative dishes: my favourite was rabbit in sherry amid shellfish in garlic and bacon, served with date rolls.

Back in Portinatx on my final night, lingering over a nightcap on my balcony, I listened to a lone Scotsman standing on a beach somewhere in the dark playing a skirling lament on bagpipes. Ibiza can be a bizarre place.

● *Portland Direct (0990 003200) has a week's self catering package staying at Portinatx from £179 per person this month, based on three sharing. Flights are from several British airports. Group A all-inclusive car hire is an additional £140 a week.*



TONY STONE

The ibicenco and flamenco (performed here by Cristina Hoyos), form the first dance scene in Ibiza

A very British export

IN HIS small, nondescript office off a side street near the port in Ibiza Town, Jorge Alonso, director of Ibiza's Tourist Office, was pulling no punches.

"We have a problem with *drunken young English people*," he said gesticulating *forcefully to get his point* across. "After hours of drinking they behave like animals — and we would be better off without them. They come here to drink and be crazy. When they leave they have not seen Ibiza, *they have just been to* the bars."

But what about the money they bring to the island? Last year more than half a million Britons visited Ibiza.

"Yes, of course we want people to come," said Mr Alonso, a little ruffled. "But we wish the young British would behave more like the Germans and French. I can't understand why the British behave *they way they do*."

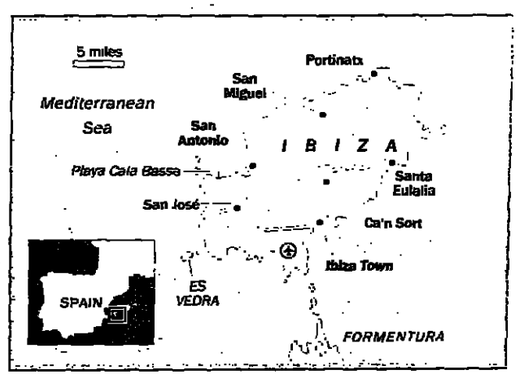
On my visit, it was easy to sympathise with his views and I was not surprised to learn that British vice-consul Michael Birkett had resigned. Drunken youths stumbling *about chanting football songs* in San Antonio were a regular feature of any night out. It was also not uncommon to see Brits sitting on the kerbside, heads between their knees, looking decidedly unwell.

Few holidaymakers I met were *shocked by it. Most* knew what they were letting themselves in for when they booked their packages to San Antonio, the busiest resort on the island. In fact, many said that wild partying was the *their whole reason for visiting* the island.

Bars had tequila slamming sections: people were egged on by bar staff to "down another one". And tour operator reps were keen to drag their customers along on pub crawls.

So, *although the reasons* Mr Birkett gave for resigning were understandable, it is clear that the "degenerates" are part and parcel of any holiday to parts of Ibiza. And if you don't like it, don't go.

TOM CHESSHYRE



The Pyramids to Abu Simbel

visiting the Pyramids, Thebes, Karnak, Aswan & Abu Simbel

Besides being many hundreds of pounds lower than can be found elsewhere, this comprehensive itinerary of ancient Egypt provides the traveller with the main highlights to this most interesting country.

The programme provides three nights at the Pyramids at Giza staying at the 5-star Mena House Hotel, then 3 or 4 nights Nile cruise on the 5-star deluxe MS Serenade, one of the finest vessels on the Nile, visiting the sights in Thebes, Edfu, Kom Ombo and Aswan. This is followed by 3 or 4 nights cruising Lake Nasser on board the 5-star MS Eugenie visiting Kalabsha, Wadi el-Seboua and Abu Simbel. The last night is spent in Cairo with a visit to see Tutankhamun's treasures at the Egyptian Museum and a city tour.

There are two variations to the itinerary: one that provides for 4 nights on the Nile followed by 3 nights on Lake Nasser; the second provides for 4 nights on Lake Nasser and 3 nights on the Nile.

Both cruise vessels are air-conditioned and have comfortable general facilities that include a lounge, bar, restaurant, viewing/sun deck and swimming pool. The Mena House, located in the shadow of the Pyramids at Giza, has a variety of bars, restaurants and a beautiful garden in which is set a swimming pool and pool restaurant. The hotel is under the management of the renowned Oberoi group and is fully air-conditioned.



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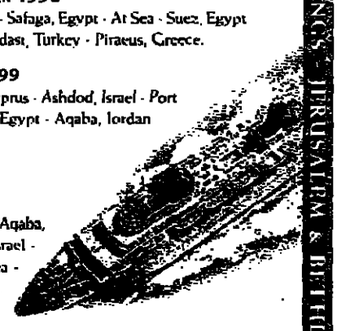
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Searching for shells on Sanibel Lighthouse Beach where fearless blue herons wait for the fishermen. "Find a rare brown speckled junonia and you get your picture in the local paper," they are told by the local shell museum curator

Take a walk on the quiet side

After relaxing on the southwest Florida islands where big game fishing and wildlife abound, only the mermaids disappointed **Michael Cable**

All eyes were focused on the dolphins swimming lazily a few yards off our port bow when suddenly, just behind us, a "mermaid" popped her head up alongside the small, bobbing boat.

One of my twin sons, Simon, who happened to glance round at that precise moment, reacted like the character in *Jaws* who turns to see the giant shark for the first time — reeling back, pointing, mouth working soundlessly. Not that this confrontation was quite that terrifying.

But neither are we talking Darryl Hannah here. Sadly, a close-up view of the shy creature said to have inspired the mermaid legend, leaves one wondering about the feverish state of mind of those ancient mariners who came back raving about golden-tressed sirens of generous proportions.

With a whiskery snout and huge, ungainly body which can weigh up to 1,000lbs, the walrus-like manatee actually seems much better suited to the other name by which it is sometimes known — the sea cow. What it lacks in beauty, however, it more than makes up for in curiosity value, and getting to see one at such close quarters was the highlight of many memorable wildlife encounters during our stay on the southwest Florida islands of Captiva and Sanibel.

Less than four hours' drive from Orlando, but light years away from the Mickey Mouse attractions of its theme parks, these relatively unspoilt sub-tropical islands represent, in every sense, the other side of Florida.

McDonald's and other fast food chains are banned here, no building is allowed above treetop level and the road that meanders the 19 miles from the lighthouse at the southernmost end of Sanibel to the South Seas Plantation resort at the northern tip of Captiva, is just not built for speed.

A distinct change in the pace of life is noticeable from the moment you drive through the toll gates and on to the breezy three-mile causeway that has linked the islands to the mainland only since 1963.

"Beware of Low Flying Birds" warns a prominent roadsign. Right on cue, a large brown pelican came gliding in on the breeze to check us out, flapping lazily alongside just a few feet from our starboard wing mirror before losing interest and nonchalantly peeling off to dive-bomb a shoal of fish in the sparkling, clear blue waters below. It was a welcome that set the tone for a stay during which a constant delight was the way in which nature-loving holidaymakers and abundant local wildlife co-exist happily.

Stroll along the endless white sand beaches, collecting the shells for which the area is especially famed, and flocks of sandpipers scamper just ahead of your feet, while graceful white egrets and spectacular roseate spoonbills can scarcely be bothered to look up as you pass.

Bathe in the luke-warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico and dotty-looking pelicans dive-bomb like Stukas all around you, while on the shoreline, fearless great blue herons stand motionless beside the fishermen, waiting patiently for the catch.

And if you take a boat trip out among the mangrove islets of Pine Island Sound, where ospreys and cormorants perch atop every marker buoy, you



A resting pelican

are almost guaranteed to enjoy the exhilarating sight of bottle-nosed dolphins joyfully riding your bow wave.

Even the local nightlife has a natural slant, with rowdy crab-racing sessions at the Tween Waters Inn. Until the causeway was built, these islands — which could previously only be reached by ferry — remained the exclusive preserve of a rich, famous and eccentric few, mostly old money 'Great Gatsby' Americans who came originally for the big game fishing in nearby Boca Grande Pass.

President Teddy Roosevelt used to go hunting giant manta rays in Captiva's secret bays while his friend 'Ding' Darling, a Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist and pioneering conservationist, created a 6,000-acre wildlife refuse which remains one of Sanibel's main attractions.

US aviator Charles Lindbergh sought refuge here from the glare of worldwide publicity while Ernest Hemingway, very much in his macho, outdoors element among the big game fishermen who come to take on the huge tarpon in nearby Boca Grande Pass, was one of several literary and artistic figures drawn to the islands, a connection now celebrated by an annual International Hemingway Festival.

With the causeway has come considerable development, including discreet resort complexes, a shopping mall and three golf courses, but this has been strictly and effectively controlled so as to retain that unhurried, holiday island charm.

When explorer Juan Ponce de León first discovered the islands in 1513 he called them Costa de Caracoles, the Seashell Coast. It is a combination of their comma-like shape and cross-tide alignment in the Gulf of Mexico that makes the islands the third best area in the world for shells, with about 400 different species covering the beaches ankle deep in some places. At some times of the year, the water is cloudy. But this is not pollution, more a build up of organic shell particles and seaweed life.

Sooner or later, everybody here ends up doing the Sanibel Stoop as they search for sand dollars, angels' wings, alphabet cones, lions' paws, sailors' ears and kings' crowns. "Find a rare brown speckled junonia and you get your picture in the local paper," says the curator at the island's Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum.

After joining one of the regular scheduled shelling trips by boat to the uninhabited islet of Cayo Costa, my family and I spent an idyllic morning shuffling along an otherwise deserted beach and splish-sploshing through the warm shallows in search of the ultimate specimen. As we quickly discovered, it can be quite addictive.

It was on another boat trip that we had our manatee encounter. An Indiana Jones figure in his bush hat, Arden Arrington runs his Caloosa Coast Outfitters wildlife cruises from a marina in Fort Myers Beach, just off the islands and down the coast.

A mine of information about the Calusa Indians, who held sway in this region for more than 5,000 years, building their villages on mounds of discarded shells, Arden is also acknowledged by the other cruise skippers in Estero Bay as the man most likely to get you close to a dolphin.

He even has sonar equipment that can pick up their calls. But the manatee, he admitted with a smile, was a rare and unexpected bonus.

Back on the islands, Mark 'Bird' Westall gets you even closer to nature as he pilots his canoe trips through the mangroves of the 'Ding' Darling National Wildlife Refuge. The early morning silence is broken only by the sound of paddles in the water, the occasional slither and plop of turtles and small alligators taking cover in the shallows and Westall's expert commentary on the abundant birdlife, including ospreys, bald eagles and a multitude of waders.

Those prepared to venture futher afield can join the day-long Everglades Safari which takes you by minibus from Sanibel to the heart of the Florida swampland and includes a cruise through the mangrove waterways, a joyride in a classic Everglades propeller-driven airboat, a drive along the Turner River and through the 700,000-acre Big Cypress National Preserve and the obligatory visit to an alligator farm.

On the way, Grand Floridian guide Dow Roland takes great delight in recounting colourful horror stories of deadly Eastern Diamond Backed Rattlesnakes and man-eating 'gators, as well as providing a full and fascinating natural and social history of a region which still has a sultry and slightly sinister reputation.

Cabbage Key, a mere speck of an island out in Pine Island Sound, is an appetite-whetting, hour-long boat trip away from Captiva. This is the place to go for lunch. Its few acres covered in tropical foliage and mangrove swamp, there are a handful of clapboard buildings, including the inn, built in the 1930s as a hideway home for playwright and novelist Mary Roberts Rinehart.

Here, looking out over the little wooden jetty, you can feast on fresh fish or the home-made cheeseburgers immortalised by singer and local personality Jimmy Buffet in his song *Cheeseburger In Paradise*.

Famously laid-back, Buffet also used to sing about the delights of "wasting away in Margueritaville". Lounging on the verandha in the afternoon sunshine as you wait for the boat to pick you up for the return journey, you somehow know just how he felt.

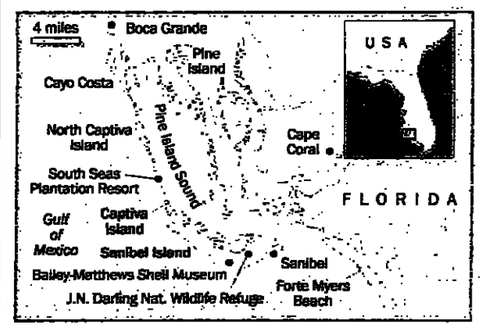
SERENE SCENE IN FLORIDA

■ Getting there: Michael Cable travelled on a Unijet fly-drive holiday (0870-511 4114) to Orlando, a four hour drive away. Prices, including flight and car hire start at £429 per adult and £269 per child (2-16 years). Alternatively, you can fly to Tampa, a two-hour drive. British Airways Holidays (0870-242 4245) offers seven nights at the South Seas Plantation Resort, Captiva from £769 per person in September, including flights and car hire. Prices for a child under 11 sharing start at £345.

■ Where else to stay: A self-catering apartment, sleeping four, at the Tween Waters Inn, Captiva costs from £65 per room per night (0800 960419). The Casa Ybel, Sanibel, starts at £130 per night (001 941 472 3145).

■ Reading: *Eyewitness Florida* (Dorling Kindersley, £14.99). *On the Road around Florida* (Thomas Cook, £12.95).

■ Further information: Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau, Roebuck House, Palace Street, London, SW1 5BA (0171-630 8825).



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Upmarket cruising: **Maria Harding** re-evaluates a flagging flagship, while **Keith Allan** enjoys champagne on tap


KOBAL

Today's passengers still yearn for the halcyon days of cruising, as depicted by Douglas Fairbanks and Bebe Daniels in *Reaching for the Moon*

My kind of flotation therapy

A familiar voice called out my name as I tottered back from the *Crystal Symphony*'s stern towards my cabin. I was on the butler's deck, feeling hungover from a heavy lunch, barely awake after a siesta and sticky after lying out in the steamy breath of the Caribbean.

It was just as well that Lubo, our butler, was there to see me back into our penthouse, one of 64 on the deck. He had already pressed our clothes and stocked the wine bar.

"Caviare and champagne," I replied nonchalantly, "about six o'clock, Lubo." That would give my wife, Lynne, and I time to swim in the lido, dip a toe in the Jacuzzi and shower before our appetiser.

Later, a whisky-sour in the Palm Court would send us down six decks to the sumptuous dinner of gratinated oysters, oxtail soup, peach-champagne sherbet, broiled Maine lobster and pecan cheesecake.

The penthouse, one of the cheap ones at around £9,500 for 11 nights, (or, put another way, £863 a day for two) had a private veranda, sitting area, television and video, personal safe, fridge, walk-in wardrobe, Jacuzzi-bath, separate shower and a king-size bed. Another £8,000 would have got us a bigger suite, Jacuzzi and sea view.

In the next cabin, Betty, a Dutch woman who had moved to Belgium for tax reasons, was on her 24th cruise on the same ship and was staying on for the next four. Every morning, she sat in the bistro drinking coffee with her favourite officer, hotel director Josef Matt. "I much prefer being with the crew," she whispered to us. Betty was 72.

Launched in 1995, *Crystal Symphony*, along with her slightly older, almost identical sister, *Crystal Harmony*, is marketed as a resort at sea. It's a term that turns every captain red with rage, but this new breed of ship, designed specifically for cruising and looking rather like a floating block of classy apartments, defies any other description.

But don't let that put you off. She's not an ugly ship. Her nicely raked clipper bow, and wraparound teak deck for promenading, as well as her immaculate appearance, makes her a joy to be with.

The hotel and dining staff were European and genuinely friendly. Our waiter was from Darlington, the cruise sales consultant from Newcastle, while the captain, Helge Brudvik, was Norwegian. And the food hit extraordinary heights: Viennese afternoon tea was a sweet tooth's dream.

It was the end of the rainy — and hurricane — season as we set sail from San Juan on Puerto Rico for Charlotte Amalie on St Thomas, where we arrived on a public holiday. Despite this, the shops were open. "We stay open for the ships: they bring fantastic business," said a store owner.

Early next morning, breakfasting on fresh mango and pineapple, French toast and scrambled eggs, we dropped anchor off St Barts. A gang of frigate birds, coal black with hooked beaks and forked tails, came looking for titbits.

The tenders were waiting for us in a glorious blue sea, and after landing us in town we walked to a shell rich beach. Ankle-deep in them, the waves kept depositing more at our feet, washed clean in delicate shades of pink.

From Aruba, our last Caribbean stop, to the Panama Canal was 627 nautical miles. At the canal, we squeezed through the locks, progressing slowly to the Pacific: it was only 50 miles but it took nine hours. We expected it to be raining. It wasn't. And the key to the canal's very existence is rain. Whenever a ship passes through the six mighty locks, 52 million gallons of fresh water is lost into the two oceans as it raises and lowers by 85ft.

Betty, the cruise veteran, was keen to talk. Aged 13, she joined the Dutch Resistance and during a period of four years, helped rescue no fewer than 50 aircrew who had crashed into Holland during the Second World War.

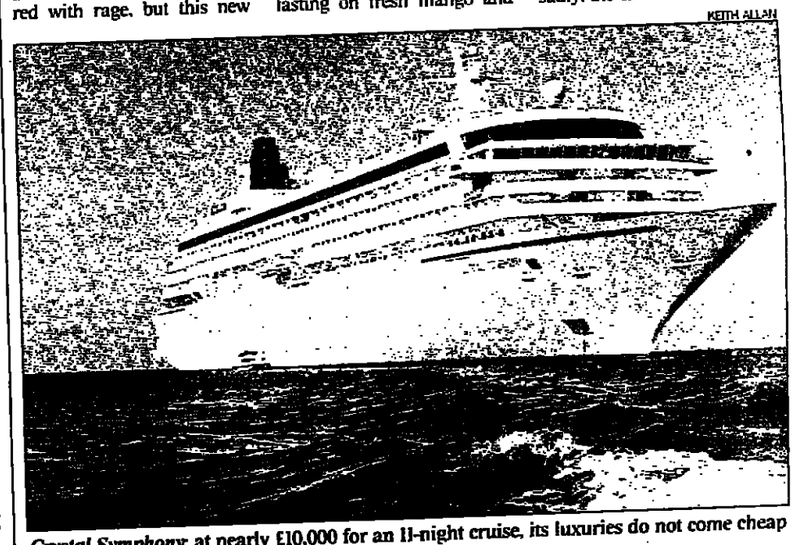
"It was very dangerous and I was often questioned," she told us. "One day I came home to find my mother being interrogated by a German policeman. He was beating her terribly. I didn't know what to do. Eventually I decided I had no choice, it was my mother or him. So I shot him." The clientele of *Crystal Symphony*, we found, had some stories to tell.

Next was Costa Rica and a beautiful 9,000ft mountain with its volcano smelling of rotten eggs, a bewitching stroll through a cloud forest surrounded by humming birds, and finally Acapulco where, like a punch in the stomach, our cruise would be over. And, sadly, the caviar with it.

CRYSTAL FACTS

- Keith Allan travelled with Crystal Cruises (0171-287 9040).
- *Crystal Symphony* has four Caribbean and Panama Canal fly-cruises in November and December ranging from 13 to 16 nights. A 13-night cruise from Barbados through the Panama Canal to Acapulco departing on November 9 costs from £3,213 per person including return economy flights, all food and entertainment. Excludes shore excursions.
- Tip: Take binoculars — they add dimension to any cruise.
- Reading: *Caribbean Islands Handbook* by Sarah Cameron (Footprint £14.99).

KEITH ALLAN



Crystal Symphony: at nearly £10,000 for an 11-night cruise, its luxuries do not come cheap

Not bad for her age

It's morning rush hour in Morocco, and in the already searing heat of the North African sun, I'm watching a scene reminiscent of an off-the-wall Gary Larson cartoon.

On one side of Casablanca's busiest street stands a line of tour buses. On the other lies a tourist's nirvana in the shape of an ethnic street market.

About to bridge the gap, there's a shipload of elderly American cruise passengers, many dependent on walking sticks. You can just imagine the Larson caption, which would probably be something like: "Trouble brewing . . ."

A frantic tour guide stands sweating in the centre of the road, striving to hold back a sea of blaring cars as *djellabah*-clad drivers semaphore their fury.

I scuttle hastily across, fearful our Moroccan Canute can't stave off the tide much longer. But my fellow travellers, oblivious to their surroundings, chatter as serenely as strollers in a summer meadow.

If it's true that there's a God who protects drunks and Americans, he clearly reserves his best efforts for wealthy — and often litigious — cruise passengers. And they don't come much wealthier than the clientele of Cunard Line's *Royal Viking Sun*.

This ship, which at 37,845 tons has ample space to cosset a maximum 814 passengers, has consistently been rated among the best in the world by the prestigious *Berlitz Guide to Cruising and Cruise Ships*.

But when I sampled her Black Sea cruise last year, brusque service, disaffected passengers and a lack of attention to detail left me wondering why.

BEFORE

- Patchy and often curt service
- Sheets only changed every three days
- No pre-stocked mini-bars in B-grade cabins. Bars were closed at inconvenient hours
- Dinner later than 8.30pm was frowned upon
- Poor, time-consuming room service
- A requisition form was needed to have wine sent to your room



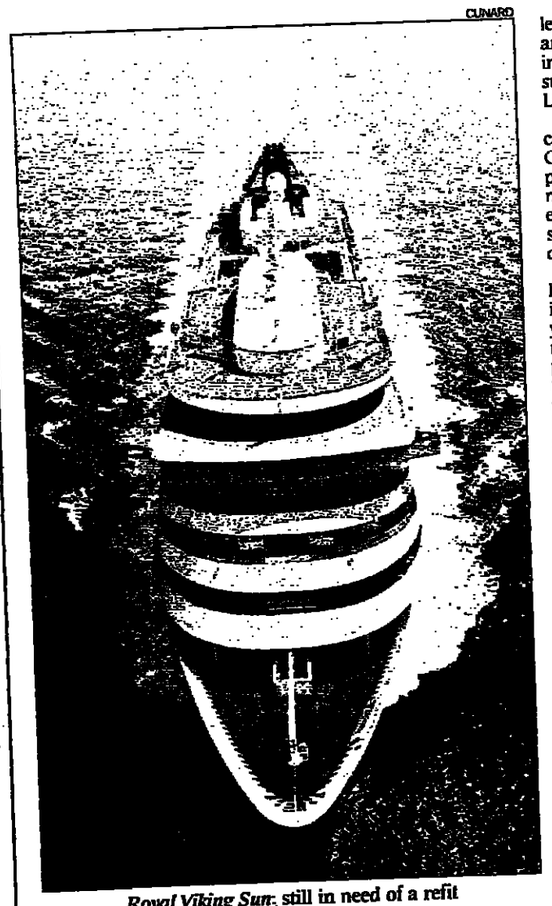
AFTER

- Consistent service levels
- Very clean
- Pre-stocked mini-bars in B-grade cabins
- Relaxed dining hours
- Excellent food
- Good entertainment
- In need of redecoration



To its credit, Cunard Line took serious note of the comments made in last October's article in *The Times* and, after its executives had visited the ship for what our American friends might call an "ass-busting session", invited me back to give *Royal Viking Sun* another chance — this time on a week-long cruise starting in Madeira and stopping off at Casablanca and Lisbon before finishing the trip in Rouen.

CUNARD



Royal Viking Sun: still in need of a refit

The first improvement, I found, was a pre-stocked mini-bar in my B-grade cabin. On my earlier trip I'd arrived hot and thirsty after a delayed flight and found there wasn't even a bottle of mineral water to hand. This time, the fridge was full of beers and soft drinks, although at 90p for a tiny bottle of Evian, thirst-slaking was expensive.

Service levels, which had been patchy to say the least on my first trip, were much more consistent second time around. Staff were attentive and wreathed in smiles but then with "That Woman from *The Times*" virtually stamped on my back, they would be, wouldn't they?

A better yardstick was the opinion of the passengers I spoke to during my second trip. They seemed a lot more contented than my earlier companions, though they continued to yearn for the halcyon days when the ship was run by her original owners, the famously classy (but sadly, now defunct) Royal Viking Line.

"I do miss the white-gloved Royal Viking Line service, but *Royal Viking Sun* is still a very nice ship," one elderly gentleman, who had travelled from Canada to take his Mediterranean cruise, told me.

The ship's country house atmosphere is partly thanks to a strong entertainment programme; passengers gather regularly in the lounges to learn watercolour painting and other crafts, or to engage in friendly rivalry over games such as Name That Tune and Liar's Club (Call My Bluff).

Royal Viking Sun's genial captain, Halle Thon Gundersen, also plays his part, joining his guests for a nightcap and a gossip every evening, and stationing himself at the gangplank to bid individual adieus.

So, *Royal Viking Sun* is a jolly ship. But does it now merit its high falutin' status? Well, yes and no. The service is now much closer to what you'd expect from a top-rated vessel: the food is largely excellent, and *Royal Viking Sun* does have plenty of space, in the shape of roomy sundecks, a huge dining room and a very stylish Italian restaurant (both with relaxed dining hours), a substantial gymnasium and a health spa. There's also a golf simulator, a putting green, a computer-equipped business centre and a croquet court.

On the other hand — like some of her passengers — she's starting to show her age. My cabin was in serious need of refurbishment: scuffed furniture and a hideous pink, beige and avocado bathroom hardly shrieked "luxury", while the vessel's largest pool was rendered murky by muck from the funnel and needed retiling. Even part of the ship's name, writ large on brass plates above the main pool area, was missing.

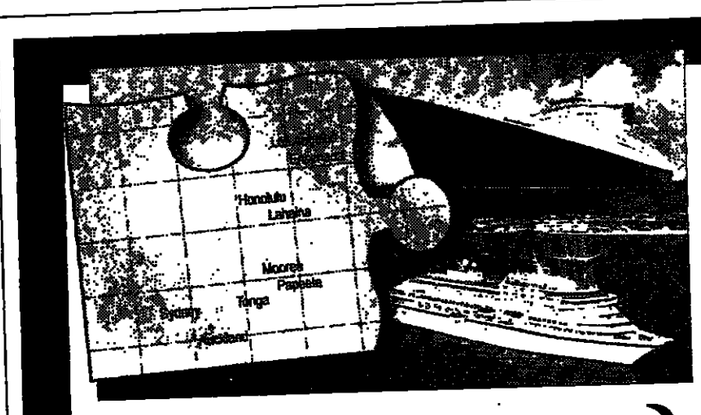
In fairness, the vessel was kept scrupulously clean and this month goes to an Italian shipyard for a £3 million refit. She will be back in action on October 2 for a trip starting in Malta and finishing in Fort Lauderdale.

When she was built in 1988, *Royal Viking Sun* was designed to be a world-beater, and she still passes muster as a classic five-star ship. If Cunard's new owners, Carnival Cruise Line, spend some serious cash, this fading beauty may knock 'em dead again.

ROYAL VIKING SUN FACT FILE

- Cunard Line (01703 634166) has *Royal Viking Sun* cruises with worldwide itineraries. This winter she will be travelling around South America and the Caribbean.
- A 17-night South American Escape takes in Rio, Salvador, Fortaleza and Bélem, Devil's Island in French Guiana, Barbados, Guadeloupe and Fort Lauderdale. It costs from £4,639 per person sharing an inside cabin, to £11,439 per person sharing a top-grade penthouse suite.
- Prices include economy flights, transfers, a day room in Florida, port and airport taxes and gratuities. Penthouse prices also include complimentary in-cabin drinks.
- In summer 1999, the ship returns to the Med. A 14-night cruise from Piraeus to Barcelona costs from £4,120 to £11,180.

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75 years on and still the same timetable



The crowded train from Arequipa to the ancient Aztec city of Cuzco has to climb to 14,000ft to the steep passes running through Peru. The timetable has changed little since 1924

Sophie Campbell uses a classic travel guidebook on a trip to Peru

Back in 1924, my entry into the southern Peruvian port of Mollendo would have been a far more spectacular affair than the modern method of arriving by scheduled bus from Arequipa.

In those days, passengers would arrive by coastal steamer, be ferried ashore and lifted to land by means of a chair roped to a miniature crane. You can still find old pictures of boatered and blazered summer visitors in mid-swing, accompanied — literally — by their hangers-on. Around them the port would have bustled: wheat coming from Argentina, sugar going out to Lima, goods and traders bound for Bolivia by rail.

Today, the foundations of the crane are still there, along with the split and twisted remains of the railway track used to load and unload goods. The concrete quay is sagging into the sea, the once-proud railway administration buildings are empty and the little railway to Arequipa — a journey which used to take five hours — now only carries *combustible* from the Petroperu plant. Passengers have been coming by bus since the 1960s, ever since Mollendo was superseded by the port of Matarani a few miles to the north, and forced to earn its living as a seaside resort for Peruvians and Bolivians.

Few foreigners visit in the summer season, let alone at this time of year, when the fog hunkers down on the coastal strip of Peru and everything — the railyard, the sky, the Pacific — looks grey. I was there for sentimental reasons: this week, the *South American Handbook*, the acknowledged bible of travellers in this vast continent, appears in its 75th edition. Armed with a photocopy of the 1924 version (the original, its red and black cover shiny with use, was far too precious to be stuffed in a backpack), I set off to follow one of its classic routes — from the old entrepôt of Mollendo almost 500 miles to the great Inca city of Cuzco, high up in the southern Andes.

I wondered aloud to a local travel agent if I could hitch a ride back to Arequipa in the cab of the petrol train, to make the experience more authentic. He raised an eyebrow. "I think this will be a story of *amor*, not of a train journey," he said cynically, "you should take the bus." I took the bus.

The old train used to chug down the coast for some miles before turning inland up the fertile Tambo valley and climbing 7,000ft through the Andean foothills to Arequipa. The modern train and all buses go north via Matarani's hinterland, where the inevitable snaggle of half-built adobe houses, bristling with steel reinforcing poles, exists to serve passengers with Pepsi, brown paper rolls of *alfajores* (chocolate and caramel biscuits) and bags of oranges and bananas.

Had I not come in the opposite direction the day before, I would have seen nothing; the sea fog clogged the bone-dry scenery, blanked out the spectacular drops on the right side of the bus, covered the miles of ashy, mineral-laden landscape around us (which, to the early traveller, signified possible deposits of copper or other metals and therefore potential for mining). Half an hour before Arequipa, we popped out of the mist into glorious blue skies and sunshine.

The city claims to have 365 days of sun a year, a perfect mean temperature and the most spectacular scenery in Peru (it is overlooked by the mighty volcanic cone of El Misti). Its centre is unusually harmonious architecturally, being built of *sillar*, a pock-marked white stone which makes it look like a city of nougat.

Right now, every building was sporting a red and white Peruvian flag in honour of the city's anniversary. Traders from the altiplano had arrived for the occasion and spread their alpaca sweaters and carved gourds all over the steps of the Plaza San Francisco. The coffee bars were filled with young Peruvians chattering into mobile phones and a motley collection of chairs from people's homes was placed on the pavement for a good view of the anniversary procession. My hotel was full of impenetrable European tour groups and I whiled away the hours in cafés, reading my 1924 handbook.

I was struck by how little had changed in terms of monuments or scenery. Peru's demanding geography means that the train timetable is virtually identical — still only two through-trains a week from Arequipa to Cuzco, still standard gauge, still run by the Southern Railway of Peru — and no motorways have subjugated the landscape. People were still wondering when El Misti was going to explode. What had changed was us — the readers.

A quick flick through the first edition reveals advertisements for shipping lines, tropical clothing, compasses, suppliers of explosives, joint-venture banks. The visitors of the 1920s were working; they had come to trade or look for business opportunities (47 per cent of Peru's foreign investment was British) and do a little tourism on the side. Their choice of hotels was small — local inns were beyond the pale and the hostels so eagerly used by their youthful backpacking descendants did not exist — and travel was arranged by agents. Rates for motor car hire are given, train journeys are described, but the bus network used by almost all Peruvians today was a long way off and the jet aircraft not yet invented.

W.H. Koebel, the book's original author who died of pneumonia just before the 1924 edition appeared, was a deeply respected South American expert and shreds of his copy occasionally surface in the modern handbook. He included sections on Choosing a Pack Animal, Beasts & Birds (to look at, rather than shoot) and What to Pack — a good saddle was essential, along with elegant clothes. A grasp of Spanish was recommended, and, failing that, an interpreter. What would he make of today's version, with its 1,680 pages of exhaustive information: from five-star hotels and budget hostels to plane and bus times, changing money in the street, fending off thieves, tours, treks, cybercafés, drugs, Aids and dozens of tips on how to do things more locally than the locals?

Coming from an era when your appearance reflected your economic and social status, he would certainly be shocked by the sight of teenage tourists out-grunging "the natives": these days it is us who wear nose-studs and belly-button rings, do not wash our hair, sport grubby clothes and travel as cheaply as possible. As a result, the 1999 handbook feels it necessary to point out that "there is a natural prejudice in all countries against travellers who ignore personal hygiene and have a generally dirty and unkempt appearance". I was equally shocked to read that in 1924 approximately 3,300lb of cocaine were exported from the Peruvian highlands to Japan. In *those* days?

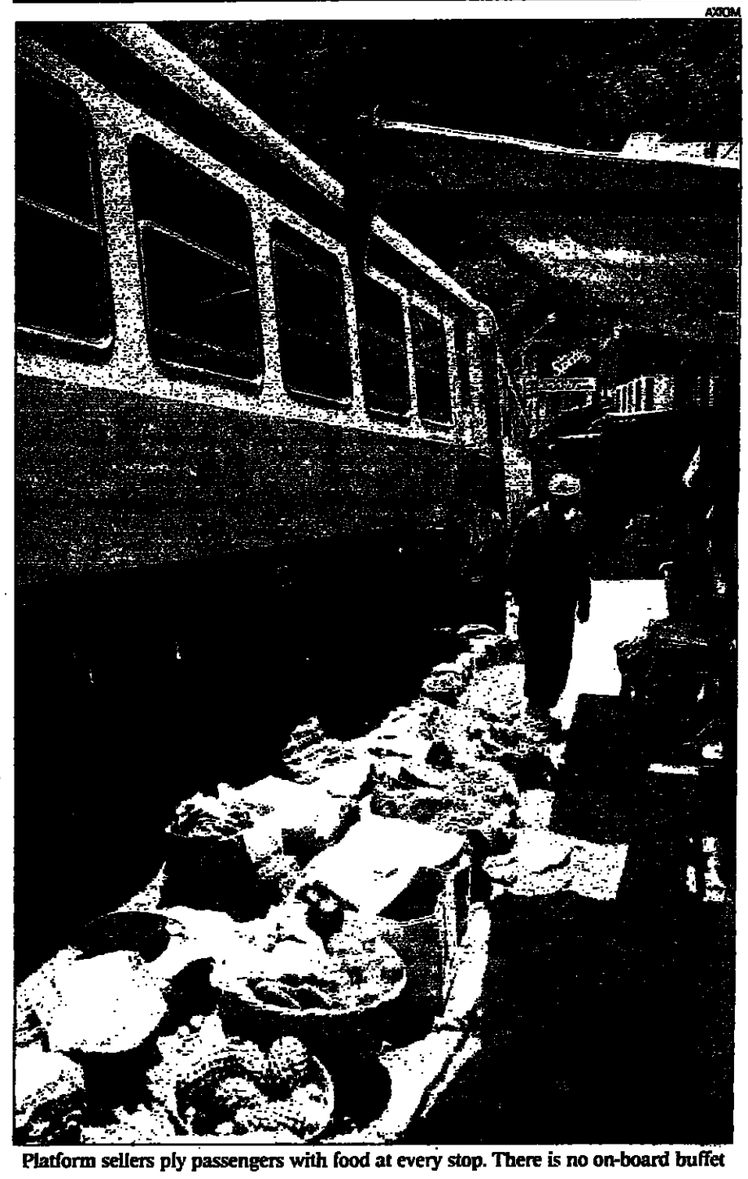
The journey from Arequipa to Cuzco is still long and romantic, even if it is by night. The train heaved and clanked its way up the steep inclines (the highest pass at La Raya is over 14,000ft), whistling irritably on the corners like an old locomotive.

A grandmother with layered skirts and a bowler hat clamped to one side of her head slept bolt upright next to a German wearing high-tech trekking gear and boots. The cabin trunks of the past were replaced by dirty, if sophisticated, backpacks. I ate apples all night, mindful of Koebel's warning that *soroche* (altitude sickness) "is usually a penalty of constipation".

And so we arrived in Cuzco, shutters down on the windows so that we did not get stoned by naughty little local boys, to be picked up by a fleet of tour buses and taxis. Three-quarters of a century ago, Cuzco's narrow streets and cobbled pavements were full of "men, mules and llamas . . . and barefooted Indians", rushing hither and thither with mighty loads of grain, corrugated iron, kegs of nails and cases of beer. It is still a unique city, particularly if you get up early in the morning and stroll along the cobbles with their patina of age, go to Mass in one of the most ornate cathedrals in South America, admire the mortarless Inca stonework which was so hard to knock down that the Spanish built their colonial buildings on top, and stop for a breakfast of *chicharrones* (fried pork fat) and coca tea.

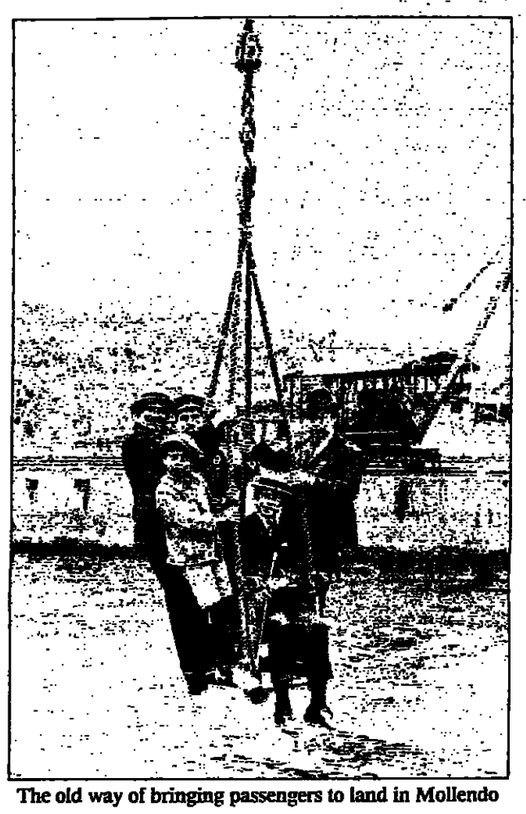
Once the day is under way, though, you can only gape at the hundreds of tourists in fleeces and hiking boots, the hustlers with menus, the endless pizzerias, the thousands of alpaca goods on sale in the street markets, the llamas with tasselled ears who are dragged across the street to star in photographs at two soles (less than half of 1p) a time, the tour companies offering jaunts to Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley. And that is when you realise the most glaring omission of all: Machu Picchu, the "Lost City of the Incas" which is most people's *raison d'être* for coming to Cuzco (and probably Peru) does not figure in the 1924 book. It was rediscovered only in 1911 and it would be many years before the twin delights of the railway and the Inca Trail to the ruins would become standard tourist fare. So who knows what might happen in the next 75 years?

PERU: FROM THE COAST TO CUZCO



AXIOM

Platform sellers ply passengers with food at every stop. There is no on-board buffet

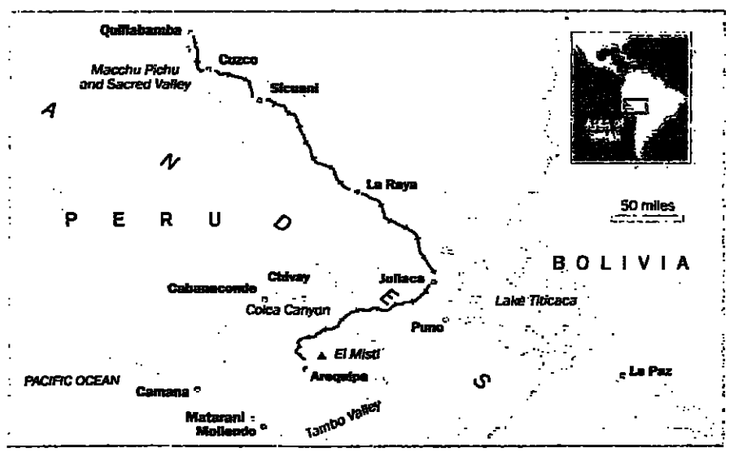


The old way of bringing passengers to land in Mollendo

> "These days it is the tourists who wear nose-studs, don't wash their hair and sport grubby clothes"

■ Sophie Campbell travelled to Peru with Cox & Kings (0171-873 5000), which does a year-round 15 day, 13 night Train to Machu Picchu tour of southern Peru. Prices start at £2,095 per person for a group tour and £2,535 on an individual basis. Prices include flights, transfers, guide and B&B accommodation except for trips to Machu Picchu and the Colca Canyon, which are full board.

■ The 1999 *South American Handbook* (Footprint, £22.99) is published this week.



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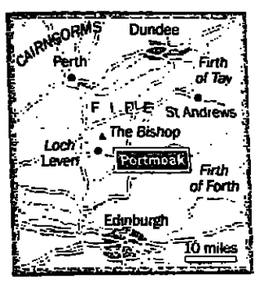
هكذا من الأهل

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Wind power makes its presence felt

Andrew Eames braves an engineless aircraft and the Scottish weather to experience flying 'at its most pure' on a gliding holiday in Fife





ANDREW EAMES



A Scottish Gliding Union aircraft parked at the Centre

I knew three things about Hamish before I put my life in his hands. He was a former flying instructor, the owner of a huge Cadillac, and chief winch operator at the Scottish Gliding Centre at Portmoak in Fife.

The man himself had a few words of reassurance for us novices as we huddled outside the club room on a Monday morning. "You're going to enjoy it," he chuckled. "It beats drink, sex and drugs." He tucked a roll-up into the corner of his mouth. "Try the north face of the Bishop," he added, referring to a nearby hill. Then he picked up his Thermos and ambled off to prepare to fling us into the sky.

The statistics on gliding are pretty reassuring: last year there were two fatalities in 400,000 launches; adherents of the sport maintain that it is safer than powered flying because there's nothing to explode. Even so, you have to wonder about an activity that catapults you aloft then leaves you to the mercy of the wind. It was with a twinge of apprehension that I turned into Portmoak on a Sunday evening.

I had chosen Portmoak for my beginners' course because it had its own accommodation, because I wanted land that looked beautiful from the air, and because it had "wave", a west-east air current that crosses the Cairngorms, descends and then starts to rise again at Portmoak. It can keep you in the air all day. Portmoak lies 20-odd miles south-west of St Andrews. The airfield is grassed, expansive and frequented by deer and rabbits.

Tony Spirling, chief instructor, was laconic, and sparing with his opinions. Classroom instruction? Tosh, his body language said. It's a lovely day for flying. No pep talks, no psychological testing — but plenty of safety checks, starting with the aircraft's logbook, "in case someone has written 'wing falling off, do not move'".

There were five on the course: a civil servant, a retired barrister, an architect, a product manager for a food supplier, and me. Three had flown before.

Susie, the product manager, had the dubious benefit of ladies first. The rest of us sorted out our roles: someone to hold a wing, someone to clip on the winch cable, and someone to work the heliograph signalling equipment.

An hour later, with Susie back on land glowing with enthusiasm, it was my turn. From the back seat, Tony took me through the "CB-SIFTCB" checks: Controls, Ballast, Straps, Instruments, Flaps, Trim, Canopy, Brakes. And then it was thumbs up, and Hamish took up the slack. The wire decapitated the daisies and the glider's nose started to trundle across the grass.

The wire is attached to the glider at one end and a winch launch about a mile away at the other. The winch, a massive purpose-built caterpillar with two whirring drums, is like a fairground ride. As it moves off you are pulled up at a 45-degree angle, revisiting your fried breakfast, as the trees fall back to reveal lochs, cornfields and mountains. At about 1,000ft there's a sudden loss of pull, a clunk from underneath the aircraft, and the cable drops away.

Instantly, it's quiet. And then Tony murmurs: "Right, you have control." The first lesson is stick management. He gets me to haul the glider's nose up and plunge it down, seesawing the fields of corn, and then to mark the horizon with sticky tape on the canopy. It's hard to believe that I have any control whatsoever over this stiff-winged albatross, but I secure the stick and the panorama miraculously stops sliding around.

We try a few turns, but fail to find any thermals — columns of rising air — so Tony brings us parallel to the airfield, and takes control as we make our final turn above a boat ploughing stationary furrows on the loch. Then the ground comes rushing up, we bounce once and roll to a halt. I've done it.

In the early afternoon I joined Hamish on the winch, and listened to his wise words as we watched the glider on the other end head off towards the Bishop, looking for lift.

We needed more wind. On blustery days, he said, he's had the winch hauled down the runway by a rising glider, but those are also the conditions for staying up all day.

By the end of the afternoon session, Tony had us working the rudder and the stick together, although it was still hard to believe that it was me turning *this* aircraft, and not him back-seat driving. He even allowed me to control the final approach.

At 6pm, glider stowed, we were treated to "Steve cuisine". Steve, in the clubroom kitchen, was a firm believer in the deep fryer. To burn off the calories I took a walk along Loch Leven amid a huge hatch of flies rising like steam through the mist.

Tuesday dawned bright and clear. Steve pointed out that the pilots arriving for the club day were not young. Gliding is dominated by older men: of 9,798 registered pilots, only 852 are women.

Today I was in luck: on my first flight of the day we struck a bubbling kettle of warm air, and circled, rising steadily. We crested the Bishop, and it began to drop away underneath, revealing lochs on its nose. From the ground we had looked close. "Rock-polishing?" asked one of the wise old birds when we landed.

Wednesday was dour. Tony took us into the briefing room and then through a theory session so terrifying that, if I'd had it on Monday, would have induced in-flight rigor mortis. Gliding is flight at its most pure, he assured us. In comparison piloting a 747 was "like being a well-paid swimming pool attendant".

The Wednesday weather was an exception: the rest of the week was immaculate, three of my co-students went solo, and one even experienced a bit of that Portmoak wave.

I came away with the impression of gliding as both thrilling and serene, but I'm not sure how I would have dealt with going solo. Silence in the air is lovely, but that particular silence just before take-off would be deafening.

> 'Right, you have control.' It's hard to believe I have any control at all over this stiff-winged albatross'

FACT FILE

- Week-long residential courses at the Scottish Gliding Union at Portmoak (01592 840543) cost £240, including instruction, accommodation and meals. Winch launches and flying time are additional, at £5 per launch and 23p for every minute in the air.
- Getting there: Junction 5 off the M90 or by train to Lochgelly (national rail enquiries 0345 484950).
- Contact the British Gliding Association (0116 2531051) for an introductory leaflet and a list of its 90-odd other member clubs.



In the gliding seat

TONY STONE



Make sure you've got your thermals: the columns of warm rising air are needed to lift the glider. Ideal weather is clear with a blustery wind

F MARWICK



Coming into land over the small village of Scotlandwell with the "Bishop" in the background

ROUND UP OF FLYING SCHOOLS

- There are 100 gliding clubs in the UK. Some larger ones are: Bidford Gliding Centre (01789 772606), Bidford on Avon, Warwickshire; Black Mountains Gliding Club (01874 711463), Talgarth, Powys; Booker Gliding Club (01494 442501), Marlow, Bucks; Bristol and Gloucestershire Gliding Club (01453 860342), Nympsfield, Gloucestershire; Essex & Suffolk Gliding Club (01206 242596), near Colchester; Lasham Gliding Society (01256 381322), Alton, Hampshire; Shenington Gliding Club (01295 680008) near Banbury, Oxfordshire.
- *The Adventure Sports Directory* (£9.95) details adventure sports here and abroad; orders from Central Books (0181-986 4854).

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Don't look now but Venice is worth a visit

UNSURPRISINGLY, Venice was packed last weekend. St Mark's Square was a heaving mass of school parties and families, to say nothing of the thousands of hideous pigeons that squawk out their fat existence by dive-bombing tourists foolish enough to buy seed from stands around the square. It got so bad that at times I felt as if I had stepped on to the set of Hitchcock's *The Birds*.

BUT Venice keeps its secrets close to its chest, and within minutes of escaping St Mark's, I was in the deserted alleyways and tiny squares made so spookily famous in another classic film, *Don't Look Now*. Never mind the tourists — I could hardly see a soul here, visitor or local, although I felt at times that I was being watched from the tall, narrow buildings around me. Sometimes an arm would emerge from a window to pull in a shutter, or a church bell would start a solitary chime as I walked by. How many of our European cities can keep such quiet and mystery at their heart, even in the height of summer?

TRIP WIRES



by Cath Urquhart

TRAVEL EDITOR

I MADE my way to La Fenice, the great theatre that burned down in January 1996, its shell now wrapped in scaffolding and plastic. The authorities hope the rebuilding will be finished in two years' time, and meanwhile have opened a temporary shop next to it, in Campo San Fantin. Here T-shirts and postcards are on sale to help finance the rebuilding — and in case you were passing and did not know what had happened, a video of the fire plays constantly.

IN Venice I boarded the Cunard ship *Sea Goddess II* for a week's cruise on the Adriatic. It claims to be the last word in luxury cruising, and there's no doubt that my 76 fellow passengers and I got through so much caviar that I fully expected the rouble to stabilise as a result. Many of the pleasures of this cruise are the simple ones that the best hotels and cruise ships in all price brackets should offer: waiters who notice when you need more bread, or another drink, and do something about it unbidden; room service that arrives at the requested time, not ten minutes early when you are in the shower; and bar staff who don't mind if you stay up drinking until 3.30am. Or at least who have the grace not to smirk when they see you looking queasy the next day.

EVEN at sea, we never miss the top news stories of the day. Our man in Ibiza, vice-consul Michael Birkett, expressed his disgust at the "degenerate" activities of British visitors who come to the island for nothing but sun, sex and sangria (it appears to have taken him some time to figure that one out). I have just the spot for Mr Birkett's next posting, for the clever thing about our itinerary is that we seem to be able to hunt out corners of the Med that have no other visitors — certainly no sex-crazed clubbers.

The Croatian island of Korcula was our first port of call. It has a beautiful town with pretty, winding lanes too narrow for cars, a small cathedral boasting a couple of Tintorettos, and a house alleged to be that of Marco Polo, although the evidence for this seems slim. The only activity that might have exercised Mr Birkett was the folk dance performance we attended, in which a winsome maiden was captured by the Black King and then fought over by some pretty racy looking soldiers. Luckily for all, the forces of good triumphed, she was freed from her chains and fell into the arms of the rather dishy Red King.

BUT apart from us and the dancing soldiers, the place seemed deserted. In the Eighties, half a million Brits would visit Yugoslavia each year, mostly heading for the coast and islands of what is now Croatia. But these days, despite extensive rebuilding and an outbreak of peace so deep around here that it could be mistaken for insomnia, few Brits seem interested in returning. Which is pretty daft. Croatia is fabulously beautiful and almost empty, and if you don't get back here soon the Germans and Italians will beat you to it.



Shining example: The public can visit the usually out-of-bounds Belle Tout Lighthouse

An open and shut case

UP to a million people are expected to visit more than 2,500 properties — many of which are usually closed to the public — next weekend.

The Heritage Open Days scheme, now in its seventh year, offers free admission. But curiosity is the main pull, says an event spokeswoman. People like having the opportunity to visit sites usually barred to them such as Ministry of Defence buildings, private homes and working factories, she adds.

One such example is the Belle Tout Lighthouse on Beachy Head, in east Sussex, which is soon to be moved from its perilous position 30ft from the cliff edge.

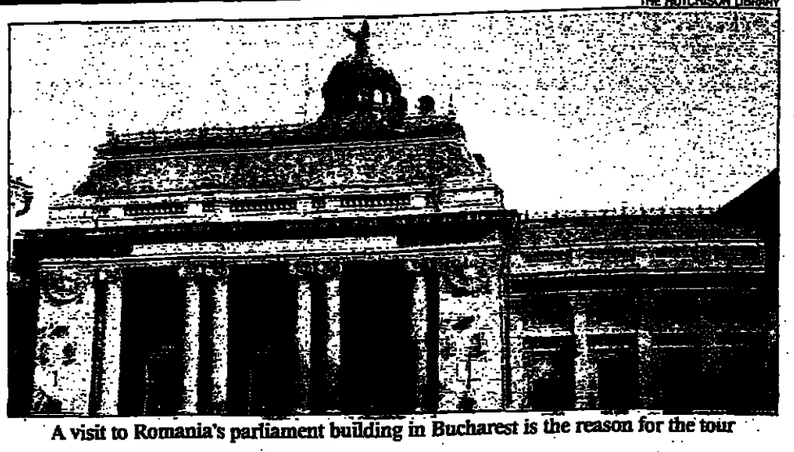
The Civic Trust organises the event with the help of 700 local groups and organisations and is funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, with some private sponsorship.

It does not pay the owners of the properties for granting the public access but they are allowed to ask for donations and charge for refreshments and guides to cover costs.

Similar events are taking place in 44 countries throughout September under the aegis of European Heritage Days, a Council of Europe initiative.

For further information, phone 0891 800603 (calls cost 50p a minute).

THE HUTCHISON LIBRARY



A visit to Romania's parliament building in Bucharest is the reason for the tour

Parliamentary party time

The Romanian Parliament building would not be most people's choice of a place for a break, but for a group of 37 leaving for Bucharest this month, it's top of the list. All have an active interest in politics and their principal reason for going is to see the parliament building, attend a session in its chamber and swap views with a local MP of their closest political affiliation.

The visit is the latest in a long line of parliamentary tours operated principally on behalf of the main political parties by a small Berkshire company, Kelso Travel. Roger Hill, Kelso's director, has been organising similar groups to all the main houses in Europe, including the European Parliament in Strasbourg, for 12 years.

The Bucharest trip came about, as did many of its forerunners, following a request from an interested association.

"Most people would fall off their stools if you suggested going to Bucharest for a holiday," he says. "But this particular group had previously visited the parliament in Moscow and saw Romania as the next on their list."

The group leaves on September 21 for seven days and there will be excursions to historical towns, such as medieval Sighisoara, but politics will take centre stage. "We always go when the parliament is in session," says Mr Hill. "We go into the chamber, have talks from an official on the country's electoral system and the workings of the parliament, and then have the chance to meet a local politician."

Through his work over the years with various political organisations, Mr Hill has established a network of contacts across Europe to gain access to many parliaments in countries such as France, Germany, Spain and Holland.

But the European Parliament in Strasbourg is a one of his more notable coups. "Access is usually very difficult. You have to be sponsored by your own MEP and they only have about 70 passes a year," explains Mr Hill.

Kelso runs two or three parliamentary tours a year for groups of no more than 40. A five-day visit to the Hague, with side trips to Bruges and Ghent, follows Bucharest in October.

Accommodation on all the tours is in three-star or four-star hotels, with transport by coach, Eurostar or, in the case of further-flung destinations such as Bucharest, scheduled airline. Prices range from £195 for a two-day trip to Brussels by Eurostar, to £740 for the Bucharest tour.

Mr Hill points out that Kelso Travel will organise trips for all the main parties, but will not mix them so participants can be assured that heated exchanges over foreign despatch boxes are not on the agenda.

● *Information: Kelso Travel (01442 863814)*

SIMON ASHLEY

Worlds apart from other holidays

MILLIONAIRES, lottery winners and the wildly extravagant — in fact, anyone with £38,000 to spare — can sign up for the package holiday of a lifetime.

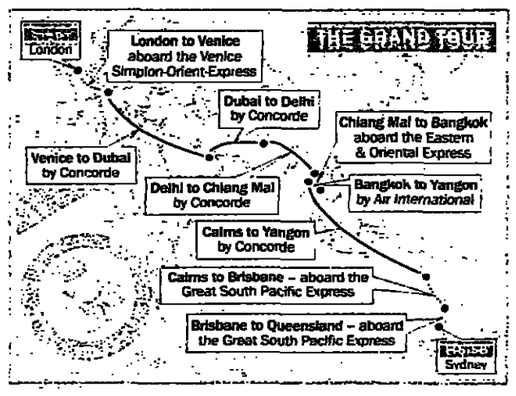
The 23-day, Grand World Tour includes travel on three Orient-Express trains and transfers by Concorde. It finishes with a trip on the inaugural Orient Express service in Australia. There are only 80 places on the tour and tickets are being sold on a first-come first-served basis.

Orient-Express has sent letters to potential passengers listed on an exclusive database, inviting them to show interest.

The trip starts in London on April 6, heading for Venice where travellers will be taken by Concorde to Dubai, Delhi, Bangkok (including a tour of Thailand) and Cairns.

Treats include a private tour of Kensington Palace in London, an exclusive reception at the Guggenheim Collection, in Venice, a Rajasthan banquet in India and a monk's blessing at the Shwedagon pagoda in Yangon.

In Australia, travellers will see a tropical rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef.



There are no immediate plans to make the tour a regular feature. But with the Millennium around the corner, Orient-Express said it was possible there might be a re-run in 2000.

● *Information: 0171-805 5080*

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JANUARY: A week's skiing in Vail, Colorado, staying in a suite at The Lodge, flying business class on BA. (Ski Independence: 0990 550555) — £4,558.

FEBRUARY: Five nights in a harbour-view room at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Hong Kong, business class flights (BA Holidays 0870 2424345) — £3,912.

MARCH: Six nights on Turtle Island, Fiji (Small Luxury Hotels of the World 0800 964470). Each of the 14 villas has its own private beach — £5,720.

APRIL: A week in a K Club cottage, Barbuda (Airwaves 0181-875 1188) — £3,725.

MAY: Six nights on the QE2, returning by Concorde (Cunard: 01703 634166) — £2,607.

JUNE: A 19-day tour of Mongolia, including camping beside a nomadic family. (Steppes East 01285 810267) — £2,150.

JULY: A 21-day Kenya safari and relaxing break on Mauritius. Stay at the Finch Hattons tented camp and Le Saint Geran Hotel, Mauritius (Somak Holidays 0181-423 3000) — £4,263.

AUGUST: Ten nights in a villa at the Oberoi Lombok, Indonesia, flying business class (Premier Holidays 01223 516252) — £3,598.

SEPTEMBER: Five-night safari in Tanzania and five nights in Zanzibar with business class flights and meals. (Carrier Tours 01625 582006) — £3,709.

DECEMBER: A week's Caribbean cruise on the all-inclusive Sea Goddess, which only accommodates 100 people. (Abercrombie & Kent 0171-559 8787) — £4,012.

TOTAL — £38,254

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London – Bologna	from £100 Go (ex-Stansted)	from £180 Go (ex-Stansted)
London – Copenhagen	£77 SAS (ex-Heathrow)	from £150 Go (ex-Stansted)
Edinburgh – Dublin	£69 Aer Lingus	from £119 Aer Lingus
London – Glasgow	from £58 KLM UK (ex-Stansted)	from £158 KLM UK (ex-Stansted)
London – Lisbon	from £100 Go (ex-Stansted)	from £180 Go (ex-Stansted)
Birmingham – Paris	£113 BA	£331 BA
London – Rome	from £100 Go (ex-Stansted)	from £180 Go (ex-Stansted)
London – Stockholm	£99 SAS (ex-Heathrow/Stansted)	£504 BA (ex-Gatwick/Heathrow)

Airline telephone numbers

Aer Lingus 0181-899 4747	Go 0845-605 4321
AB Airlines 0800 4588111	KLM UK 0990 074074
British Airways 0345 222111	SAS 0171-734 4020
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Notes

*Fares with Go include tax. Other fares shown exclude tax.
*Fares shown in the left hand column are the lowest published excursion fares. Prices shown in the right hand column are the lowest available flexible fares which do not require a Saturday night stay and which, in many cases, allow changes or cancellation without penalty. In all cases you are advised to check the restrictions, if any, when booking.
*Availability not guaranteed.

TRAVELLERS' TIP

If you are forgetful, make packing easier with small, brightly coloured nylon bags, which you are less likely to leave in dark or unlit rooms. — Mr K Jackson, Knaresborough, N Yorkshire

Take drinking straws abroad. I have often been offered dirty drinking bottles, and in India I was given a straw that had been used before. — *Siobhan Wall, London.*

Send your suggestion, in no more than 75 words, on a postcard to: Travellers' Tip, The Times Travel Desk, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, with your name, address and telephone number. If yours is published, you will win the Lonely Planet guidebook and phrase book of your choice.

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☐ Adults can relive their childhood this month with English Country Cottages (0870 5851155) which is offering a week's break in converted school houses. A 19th-century property in Inverness has a large garden, sleeps eight and costs from £426.

☐ Prague and Budapest are combined in a package from Travellers Czech (01959 540700), available until the end of October. Four nights in the former and three in the latter costs £489 including flights.

PACK YOUR BAGS

☐ See New England in autumn with Jetsave (01342 312033). Two ten-day coach tours depart on September 16 and 19 and include Boston and Cape Cod for £935, with return flights from Heathrow and free UK connecting flights.

☐ Allegro Holidays (01625 520777) is cutting prices this month for a week's B&B in Turkey's major coastal resorts — £249, including return flights from Manchester — from September 14.

☐ Klub Bali Mirage features in a special offer from Thomas Cook Holidays (01733 418450). A fortnight's all-inclusive break at the Indonesian hotel costs £675, a saving of £224.

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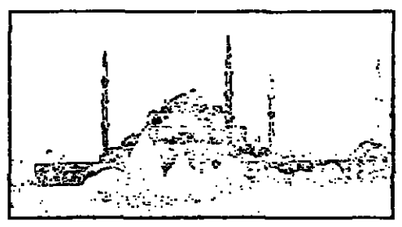
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Istanbul is a city dominated by water whether it be the narrow channel that is the Bosphorus that links the Mediterranean with the Black Sea besides being the meeting point between east and west with its beautiful buildings along the shoreline built by the Ottomans, the inlet of the Golden Horn that divides the city and the busy sea of Marmara.

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DAVID DYSON



Paying nappy service: British Airways hostesses and charges at the launch of a "stroller service", one of several family-friendly measures to be announced next month

TRAVEL TIPS by Jill Crawshaw



TRAVEL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Tourist threat to Cyprus

"CYPRUS is in danger of becoming tacky," says Cypriot-born Noel Josephides, whose own firm, Sunvil Holidays (0181-568 4499) specialises in holidays to Aphrodite's island. He is particularly scathing about the 12-point tourism strategy recently outlined by Nicos Rolandis, the new tourism minister. It includes the building of casinos, five more golf courses and several theme parks, among them a mythological park featuring the seven wonders of the world. The target: to increase annual tourist arrivals from two to three million.

If you want to get there before a proliferation of plastic Babylons, Sunvil Holidays is offering peace and tranquillity in apartments in renovated old village houses near Akamas. A two-week holiday with flights, accommodation, car hire and insurance costs £713.

Newark's great antique hunt

VISITORS to Nottinghamshire are finding hunting for historic bargains more profitable than following up myths of Robin Hood and his Merry Men. With 70 antique fairs a year, including the world's largest, which is held twice monthly in the market town of Newark (once dubbed the Stripped Pine capital of England) Nottinghamshire Tourism Council has set up an Antiques Trail around the county.

The trail is mapped out in a special *Antique Times* which also lists auctions, museums and favourable rates for antique hunters at selected hotels, as well as bargains to pick up en route. The Antiques Trail hotline is on 01623 824317.



What am I bid? Buyers and sellers at the Newark Fair

THE truly magnificent mountain gorilla (it is estimated that there are only about 600 of them left in the world) can be found only in Uganda, Rwanda and Zaire. Not surprisingly, Uganda, which claims around 300 of them, is strict about issuing permission to view the animals, but Abercrombie & Kent (0171-559 8500) has obtained tracking permits for its Magic of the Mountains tours next May and October. Holidaymakers spend three nights in the tented Gorilla Forest Camp at Bwindi on the 13-day escorted tours (maximum 12 participants). They also visit the Queen Elizabeth II National Park, which is the size of Wales and famous for its tree-climbing lions, and take night and day drives and walks in Uganda's Kibale National Park to view resident chimps and other forest animals. The tours cost £3,525 for flights and full board.

Chill out

SPOOKS, ghouls and phantoms should provide chilling thrills for children at the National Trust's special Hallowe'en Treats taking place in a variety of properties throughout October.

A Ghost Walk at Wicken Fen on October 31 includes tales of the unexpected at the ancient wetland nature reserve in Cambridgeshire, while a Ghost, Ghouls and Witches activity day on October 24 marks the start of a series of events at Dunster Castle in Somerset. The mystery of the trees will also be unravelled on a Phantom of the Forest Walk that will take place at Hardcastle Crags in Calderdale. Further information on admission and times is in the National Trust's Children Welcome Pack, from 0181-315 1111.

IF you have dreamt of spending a year in Provence *à la* Peter Mayle, you can sample a taste on one of VFB's (01242 240310) La Rencontre des Provençaux breaks centred round Aix-en-Provence. During the five-night trip you will head off on wine-tasting sessions, visit historic houses and gardens and tour the market with a local gourmet chef, followed by lunch *à la maison*. The price of the next break departing on October 19 is £709 for flights, B&B, a welcome dinner, three lunches with wine and entrance fees.

Pamper the kids

THOMSON HOLIDAYS (0990 502555) is to extend its Superfamily trips to a longhaul destination, Orlando in Florida, with a full range of activities and entertainments for children. There are also free child seats with your rental car, free room service from 20 local restaurants, pre-bookable baby equipment and theme-park outings and concessions. Families are based in the new self-catering Sierra Suites on International Drive, with communal pool and barbecues. In a suite with a minimum of four adults each paying £639 (£879 for two weeks), the first child will cost between £99 and £259, the second £169-£329 covering flights, car hire and accommodation.

Meanwhile, British Airways, to help parents who require baby strollers, is offering free pre-bookable personal buggies to meet flights into Heathrow from Los Angeles and into Gatwick from Tampa and Orlando.

Far East bargains

WITH the Malaysian ringgitt and Thai baht worth about 30 per cent less against the pound than this time last year, holidaymakers are now beginning to reap the benefits in next year's crop of considerably lower brochure prices.

In Thomas Cook's Worldwide Faraway Holidays 1999 (01733 418450), a week with flights at the Casuarina Beach Hotel (room only) that was priced at £755 in August this year will cost £547 in August 1999 a reduction of £208; while seven nights' B&B at the Kata Thana hotel in Phuket, Thailand, will be reduced by £86 from £643 to £557 for next year.

In Thailand, living costs are already almost half what they were in 1997: a litre of petrol that was 25p is now 16p and a 24-exposure 35mm camera film is down from £1 to 65p. However, on a recent trip to the Far East I noticed that shopkeepers and restaurateurs were "readjusting" prices, so costs could well rise by next year.

TO celebrate the 200-year relationship between Britain and the George Cross island of Malta, the Maritime Museum in Vittoriosa is to stage a naval exhibition from October 2 to 31. The exhibition is to be opened by the Duke of York on October 1. Belleair Holidays (0181-785 3266) is offering holidays in October, including a week's B&B at the five-star Le Meridien Phoenicia in Valletta for £491, with flights.

● *Travel articles in* The Times *since last January are on our Internet site. See "Most Recent" links on http://the-times.co.uk*

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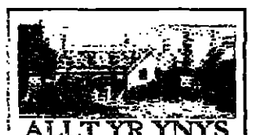
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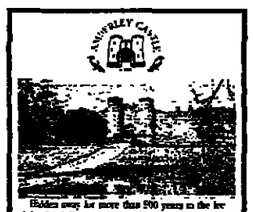
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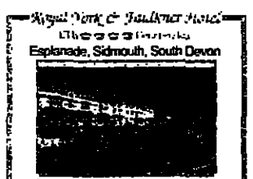
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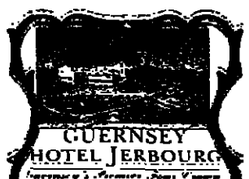
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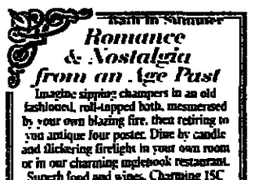


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CUDDLY caring feminine adventurous writer, 45 going on 45 seeking 100% sincere n/s man to rekindle that special inner sparkle. Share my great capacity for love life & laughter. Enjoy good food wine theatre, travel, gardening Bristol area. Bx 2744

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SPONTANEOUS lively arts graduate, late, slim, good looking WLTM interesting educated & amusing man 50-60 for good conversation friendship & poss romance Sth East Letter/Photo Bx 2766

SALSA enthusiast, beautiful, stylish, 50, seeks presentable lively partner for Latin dancing. Write with photo please. West London based. Box 2737

VERY attractive, slim, stylish, sociable, successful, 34, no ties, WLTM male with same attributes, 34-40, London based. Please respond to box 2738

WIDOW, attractive, fair & petite of independent ways & means, WLTM n/s mature, educated companion to share theatre, trunks, holidays etc. Nth London. Box number 2735

EX CAREER-GIRL keen to now use homemaking/creative skills would love to meet stong-minded successful businessman/ entrepreneur to cook for & care for. I am 34, 5'6", fair with blue eyes & a fairly slim but curvy figure (size 12). Fairly fastidious, happy in town or country, high heels or wellies. To be honest I do attract a fair amount of male attention but I would just like to give my attention to one - the right one! Maybe it's you - however although I'm very sensitive & feminine, if you are seeking a housewife bothe then it's unlikely. If you are intelligent, funny, sensitive, fairly conversing, fine wine, eating & a good lifestyle - and you are fairly serious about wanting to meet a partner, please write to me with your photo. I am currently based in S. Herts about an hour from London but have no real ties & would happily re-locate to just about anywhere other than Scarborough or Neasden for someone special. Please respond to box. number 2589

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I live overseas and am looking for a gentleman to join me for dinner & fun evenings on my regular visits to London. I am mid 40's, very attractive with a GSOH & hate dining alone. Photo & letter appreciated. Box 2680

ISLE of Man based very pretty lady, long blonde hair, huge blue eyes, petite and intelligent. 30 something no ties. Seeks n/s gentleman, late 30s-50ish. Relocation possible, recent photo essential. Box 2640

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SLENDER pretty asian girl, 31, seeks wonderful man to adore. South East. Box 2585

MAYBE American? Slim 44, 6'4, public school educated lady seeks professional n/s gentleman to enjoy evenings out and who knows what more? Hand written letter and recent photo please. London/Surrey. Box 2395

SOUTH/South East. Independent female professional early 40s, wished to meet a handsome intelligent man for interesting times at home & abroad. Likes tennis, literature, walking, romance & travel. Please write & tell me why. Recent photo appreciated. Box 2628

STYLISH professional female, 32, 5'6", brown shoulder length hair loves relaxed weekends seeks tall n/s male 38-40 with GSOH sociable, solvent and independent. London/Essex. Bx 2586

SUCCESSFUL, slim, attractive woman 37. Interests - travel, fine outdoors, swimming. GSOH, intelligent & kind. Seeks attractive, confident, professional, tall man. Photo please to box number 2634

TALL, slim, nice looking blonde with attractive personality seeks an attractive gentleman 48-60 for friendship, love, for life. A letter & photo would be most appreciated. Box 2616

UNITED STATES, Michigan. Very classy, slim blonde, dynamic professional 33 year old British beauty, GSOH, versatile interests, animal lover, well travelled, seeking sensual, ambitious, very passionate gentleman. Age unimportant. Returning to UK an option. Box number 2587

VERY attractive Russian lady, 43, widow, very kind & intelligent with great sense of adventure & zest for life. I love to give as much as to receive. My interests include travel, good company, good music from Beatles to Mozart. Good fashion from Saubrow to Chanel, dancing, reading, fishing etc. I also love flowers, pets & countryside. WLTM a very special man, someone who will make me very proud to be with. You don't have to be rich, you have to be very kind. Letter & photo please to Box 2604

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SMOKING/drinking Yorks bora, London based charismatic solvent young 41. VGSOH. Seeks attractive, non-smoking lady to jail etc. 20-30s. Photo appreciated. No bunny boilers. Please reply to box 2741

SUCCESSFUL gradnate entrepreneur, fair, 6'2", broad, slim build, fit n/s, 39. Interests include travel home & abroad, live music, wining & dining. Seeks intelligent, attractive woman 27-37 to share my great love of life. If you are not afraid of commitment please write with recent photograph. London & Midlands based. Box 2762

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COSMOPOLITAN, University Lecturer, non virasal, tall, slim & fit, 40, loves intellectual challenge & laughter, wants attractive, slim, discerning female partner, 28-38, professional & ready for adventurous future. SW. Photo please. Box 2591

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CITY frog, 40s, n/s, fit, tactile, successful, GSOH WLTM leggy educated princess for me rescuing from the pond. Box 2678

CRAGGY, tall Provence based, 67 years seeks art, literature, gentle loving poetry woman 165ish yrs + down. Letter & photographs acknowledged & exchanged. Please respond to box number 2305

DAVID - 6' tall, caring/secure, loves women/children. You must want/have children. Will reply. Box number 2740

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FRIENDLY good looking Englishman, 36, tall, dark hair, blue eyes, slim and very fit. Enjoy going, romantic, likes theatre and films and being by the sea. Seeks attractive lady for friendship leading to romance. London and South. Photo appreciated. Reply to box 2528

GLOUCESTERSHIRE 6' slim, Director, 50, Graduate, adventurous sports, GSOH, n/s, solvent. Seeks special person 35-45ish. Photo please. Box 2644

HEDONIST, early 40's, enjoys fast cars, holidays, food, wine, seeks very attractive lady 30-40 who wants their sparkle back in her life. Photo appreciated but not essential. Surrey/London/Berks/ Hants. Box number 2635

LADIES - don't just read this! Tell, slim, fun-loving London professional 30's male looks forward to your written reply. Please reply to Box 2611

MALE, tall, slim, early forties, interested arts, n/s, seeks male or female, intelligent, attractive companion. Unhesitantly located but able to travel/relocate. Please write to box number 2599

PROFESSIONAL mid 40s, attractive, slim, caring, tender male seeks with a leaning towards natural medicine seeks a younger lady with a view to a long term relationship. A soulmate preferred. Dislikes: rain, noise & pretension. Classical music Hants & surrounding also London. Box 2632

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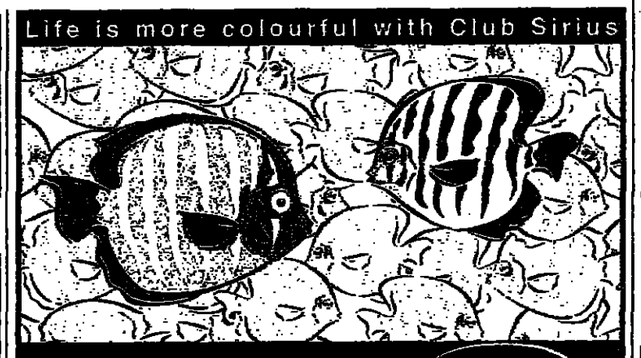
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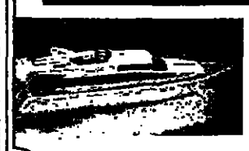
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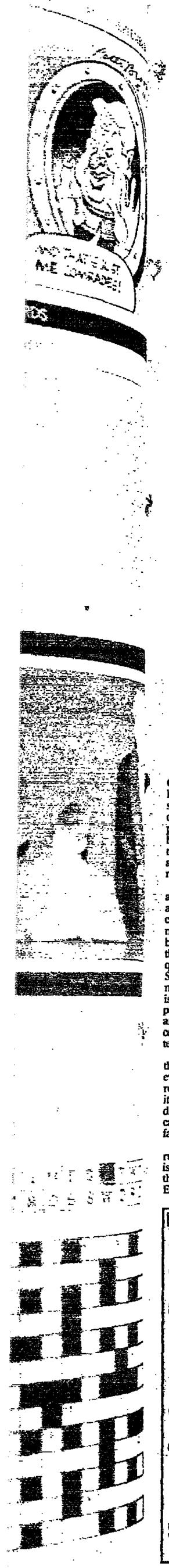
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UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT



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First day back for the rugby boys
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The Neville brothers recall a traumatic day
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THE TIMES SATURDAY SPORT

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SEPTEMBER 5 1998

OWEN AIMS TO TAKE CENTRE STAGE FOR ENGLAND

Hoddle looks for answer to his prayers

FROM MATT DICKINSON IN STOCKHOLM

CALM descended on the England team yesterday like the still before a battle. The stench over book revelations was replaced, temporarily at least, by a crisp air of eager expectation. Glenn Hoddle even got around to talking about the match.

More importantly, he talked about winning, which was just as well. If ever an England coach needed a victory, it is now. Hoddle's job might not be at stake as England begin their European championship qualifying campaign against Sweden, but his credibility most certainly is. Three points is a lot to play for, but not compared with your reputation, and Hoddle's, thanks to a succession of self-inflicted disasters, is gravely damaged.

He will pray for victory in the Rasunda Stadium this evening and there are ample reasons to believe he may get it, even if Tony Adams, who did not train yesterday because of a troublesome ankle, fails a fitness test.

The England XI that will run out to face a 37,000 crowd is a bold and positive one and they will be well-prepared. Even Adams admitted that Hoddle is an excellent tactician. He is also a remarkably lucky coach, given that he has a strike force in Alan Shearer and Michael Owen that can be as potent as any forward pairing in the world. Even Owen's team-mates admit to tingles of excitement at the prospect of how much havoc he can wreak.

If there are any worries about the 18-year-old, it concerns the claustrophobic attention that has been turned on him here in Stockholm, as if he was Take That and Pelé rolled into one. Being pursued by a scrum of teenage girls has its drawbacks and one fears that the minders who were needed to ensure that Owen's tracksuit was not torn from his body will become full-time companions.

The Swedish Football Association has been deluged by requests from wannabe ballboys, most of them girls desperate for the chance of a close-quarters encounter, and adolescent squeals have heralded his every arrival at hotels and training grounds.

When Owen and Shearer sat down for a press conference together, the Newcastle United striker was forced to look on with bemusement as his young accomplice was bombarded with questions, while he was almost ignored. England will be happy if the Sweden defence prove equally preoccupied with the Liverpool prodigy this evening, because there are few better than Shearer at exploiting space.

The Swedish fascination with Owen will have turned to terror by kick-off time this evening, to the extent that they have even allowed the stadium grass to lengthen in the hope that it slows down his rapier attacks. Some chance.

With that forward partnership, perhaps it is no wonder that Hoddle seems to think he can get away with dismissing his many critics and he was as calm as Lake Brunnsviken yesterday as he stood by the shore.

He denied that his love of the job had in any way been diminished by the recent controversies and cited the fact that he had asked for talks to extend his contract as proof. "You would be wrong to say I have lost enthusiasm for this job," he said. "I have not postponed talks with the FA. I have actually brought the talks forward."

It was defeat at the hands of the Swedes that earned Graham Taylor his turnip nickname and Hoddle has begun to pick up sobriquets of his own. One is "chocolate", because he is so sweet he thinks he could eat himself. Those more cynical about his spiritual beliefs and faith-healing whisper about David Icke, although only when he is out of earshot.

The laughing at Hoddle's arrogance and his quirky beliefs grows louder and it will take on an increasingly sinister edge if early results do not go well for him. He has laid himself open to all sorts of justifiable criticism by the publishing of his World Cup diary.

He has every right to be confident about his team, however, even though there is some concern over Paul Scholes's form. From the team that started against Argentina, Gareth Southgate is a dependable replacement for the injured Gary Neville, while Jamie Redknapp is a more than adequate stand-in for David Beckham.

The Swedes are no pushovers in Stockholm as England's record shows. England have not won here since 1937, losing three and drawing three games since. Their hosts are rebuilding under new coach Tommy Soderberg, however, and failure to qualify for the World Cup behind Scotland and Austria hardly marks them down as one of Europe's football powers. Kennet Andersson, their most prolific striker, is absent with injury.

There will be some familiar faces in the team, including Magnus Hedman and Roland Nilsson, both of Coventry City, and Pontus Kaamark, from Leicester City. Their midfield will be controlled by Stefan Schwarz, once of Arsenal, but this is not a team to fear.

Soderberg spent most of the press conference yesterday poking gentle fun at Eileen Drewery, Hoddle's healing guru. "It is an interesting idea, but I am a realist," he said. "I can't see how it would help play football. I don't believe it works, but maybe I will bring a woman into my squad when we come over to England for the return game, if it helps." Nilsson added that half the Swedish squad dismissed the faith-healing, while the other half laughed at it.

Hoddle will know that the ridicule can only get worse if he fails to avoid defeat tonight, but this England team should be strong enough to win. For Hoddle's sake, one hopes they do not lose, otherwise his trials may be only just beginning.

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Adams, left, and Merson can only stand and watch their team-mates train after injuries prevented them taking part. Photograph: Owen Humphreys

ENGLAND'S TOUGH TASK IN SWEDEN

England have not beaten Sweden for 30 years, since they were World Cup winners. The countries drew both World Cup qualifiers in 1988-89 and in their one meeting in the European championship, in 1992, Sweden won 2-1 in Solna. The last meeting produced a 3-3 draw in the Umbro International tournament at Leeds, Darren Anderton's extra-time equaliser saving England.

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Overall	15	6	5	4	27	19
Away	10	4	3	3	15	10
Home	5	2	2	1	12	9

First match:	1923 (Stockholm)	Sweden 2	England 4
Biggest win:	1937 (Stockholm)	Sweden 0	England 4
Heaviest defeat:	1949 (Stockholm)	Sweden 3	England 1

TODAY'S PROBABLE TEAMS

SWEDEN (4-4-2): M Hedman (Coventry City) - P Kaamark (Leicester City), J Bjorklund (Rangers), P Andersson (Borussia Mönchengladbach), R Nilsson (Coventry City) - S Schwarz (Valencia), J Mjallby (AIK Stockholm), P Zetterberg (Borussia Mönchengladbach), F Ljungberg (Halmstad) - H Larsson (Celtic). J Pettersson (Anderlecht).

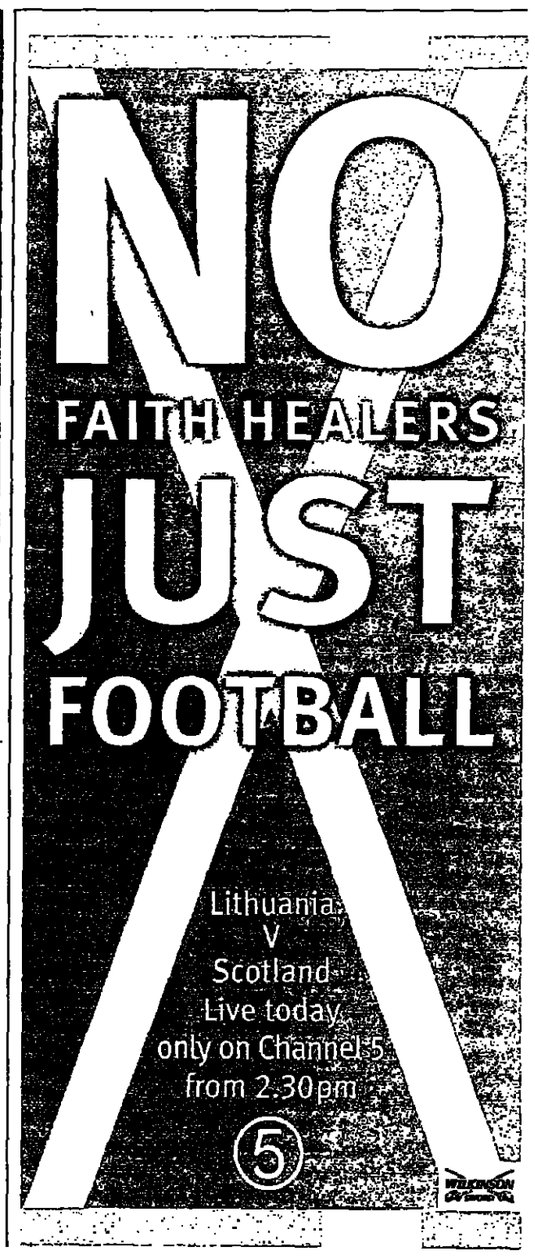
ENGLAND (3-5-2): D Seaman (Arsenal) - G Southgate (Aston Villa), A Adams (Arsenal) or M Keown (Arsenal), S Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur) - D Anderton (Tottenham Hotspur), J Redknapp (Liverpool), P Ince (Liverpool), P Scholes (Manchester United), G Le Saux (Chelsea) - A Shearer (Newcastle United), M Owen (Liverpool).

GROUP FIVE FIXTURES

Today: Sweden v England. Tomorrow: Bulgaria v Poland. Oct 10: Poland v Luxembourg, England v Bulgaria. Oct 14: Bulgaria v Sweden, Luxembourg v England. Mar 27, 1999: Sweden v Luxembourg, England v Poland. Mar 31: Luxembourg v Bulgaria, Poland v Sweden. June 5: Poland v Bulgaria, England v Sweden. June 9: Luxembourg v Poland, Bulgaria v England. Sept 4: Sweden v Bulgaria, England v Luxembourg. Sept 8: Luxembourg v Sweden, Poland v England. Oct 9: Sweden v Poland. Oct 10: Bulgaria v Luxembourg.



Hoddle: credibility at stake



Reading between the smokescreened lines

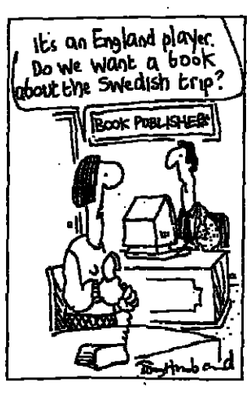
Tall stories are seldom in short supply at press conferences

A very pleasant moment at Glenn Hoddle's press conference beside a sparkly lake in Stockholm yesterday. The place was an ersatz Swiss chalet and the press — in a delightful mirrored room — were being polite and respectful as always, dutifully noting the dire news of Tony Adams's dicky ankle.

"Which ankle?" we asked, with natural anxiety. "The usual one?" "No, the other one," he said, with solemn approval at such an intelligent question. Those of us intimately familiar with Adams's lower joints (and, in particular, their eventful history) heaved a sigh of relief, but remained worried nevertheless.

Evidently, Adams had incurred a twinge when training on Thursday! He would not train again before matchday! Images of a limping, wincing Adams filled our fearful imaginations. Without the doughty Adams at centre back, Hoddle would be obliged to adopt an alternative defensive plan, though of course (it goes without saying) we could hardly expect him to tell us what it was!

But then a rather refreshing thing happened. Just like the little voice that piped up in the



fairytale, saying "but the Emperor is naked!", a chap from the tabloids dared to imply that Hoddle might be lying — or as Hoddle prefers to call it, "smokescreening".

"Yes, but is Adams really injured?" he asked. "I won't even bother to answer that." Hoddle snapped, and changed the subject to the interesting topographical fact that, if England could turn the corner, they'd have no mountains to climb.

Sorry to go on about a press conference. But Hoddle's affronted reaction to the question was fascinating. The unspoken agreement between Hoddle and the press, you see, is that we've dropped the subject of *My 1998 World Cup Story*. Enough's enough. For heaven's sake, the book has been out for two weeks; can't a chap get on with the rest of his life? There's a sloganising job to be done in Sweden as we kick off for Euro 2000! New campaign, new Labour, new Britain, hoorah!

But when Hoddle told us about Adams's injury and expected us to believe it, what on earth was he thinking of? Does he think we're stupid? As a consequence to the admissions in his book, he must surely realise that at exactly the same time as we entertain gloomy ideas of poor lame Adams with his foot in a sling, we also picture him pirouetting in perfect health, like a giraffe in a tutu. Or that when he says Merson's thigh is troubling him, we imagine the player Cossack-dancing while his team-mates clap in a circle and play the balalaika.

In short, we say a collective "Hooey". I mean, personally, I can never quite forgive Hoddle for the story last year of Beckham's flu. Remember that? Poor lad was officially on all fours with it, yet he took to the field against Italy in Rome equipped with neither tissues nor a Vick inhaler.

Nobody wants to undermine the England coach, but it's worth reminding him that he's undermined himself, because, oddly, when he looks in a mirror, he sees George Washington. Meanwhile, the cunning Swedes have evidently read his book and drawn their own conclusions. So what price the tactical advantage now, exactly?

In all probability, Adams really did incur a twinge in training, exactly as reported, and his tutu remains in its suitcase. But if he plays today, and runs like a cheetah, I'll venture to say that Hoddle won't get the benefit of the doubt from many England fans, or indeed anyone else. "Thankfully, Adams recovered in time!" will ring a bit hollow, I feel. "Yeah, yeah," we'll say, pulling faces. "Yeah, yeah. Dicky ankle. Yeah, yeah."

TENNIS

Henman's gritty win opens up bright path

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

TIM HENMAN took hold of a contest that briefly threatened to slip from his grasp when he downed Felix Mantilla, of Spain, in four compelling sets at Flushing Meadows yesterday. It was a measured performance from the Briton, who thus joins Greg Rusedski in the third round of the US Open.

Henman needed to assert himself after dropping the second set in frustrating circumstances. His whirlwind start left Mantilla hopelessly disorientated, some deep volleys and powerful overheads securing the opening set as the Spaniard took momentary leave of his senses.

Mantilla regularly directed his service at Henman's potent forehand and paid a heavy price. It was only when he targeted Henman's backhand that he brought a semblance of parity to the contest. Yet Henman always appeared in control, attacking Mantilla at every opportunity, rushing his opponent, who has a sweeping swing to his groundstrokes, into several errors.

This match always had the makings of a demanding examination for Henman, world-ranked No 13 and seeded No 13 here. Although Mantilla excels mainly on clay, he ranks just five places below Henman and arrived here fortified by the best hard-court form of his career. Henman's game plan was further complicated by an unfortunate and unnecessary delay when he served to take the second set into a tie-break.

A huge influx of spectators, who found no seats in the vicinity forced Henman, who stood poised on the baseline, to wait before resuming his service. It prompted Henman into a rare flash of anger when he complained to the umpire about the court ushers. "Tell them to do their job," shouted Henman at one change-over. The umpire duly did so, but the bedlam clearly affected Henman. Until then he had denied the Spaniard any semblance of a chance. This time, however, his best serves deserted him and Mantilla, manacled for so long, finally broke free to level the match. The dogfight Henman had avoided in similar circumstances against Scott Draper two days earlier was now upon him.

To his credit, Henman responded with gusto in the third set. He broke Mantilla for a 2-1 lead, but the Spaniard responded in kind to herald a topsy-turvy passage but when Mantilla drove a backhand wide, and offered Henman the chance to serve out the set at 6-5, he duly obliged.

The breakthrough achieved, Henman pressed ahead to complete a triumph forged from the merits of application and concentration. If some of his raw brilliance was thus diluted, the result yielded handsome compensation. He prevailed 6-3, 5-7, 7-5, 6-4 in two hours 37 minutes.

Henman will next play the winner of a match between two qualifiers — Michael Kohlmann, from Germany, and Arnaud Di Pasquale, of France. Either is the sort of name that might cause Henman to dwell on his frail record against lesser opponents. It will be a test of his new-found maturity, albeit one which he must be expected to pass. On paper, the only man standing between him and a quarter-final place is Mark Philippoussis, the big-serving Australian.

With Henman safely through to the third round, the emphasis today switches to Rusedski, who faces another daunting hurdle in the shape of Jan Siemerink. The Dutchman, world ranked No 21, has an excellent record against the British No 1 — particularly on the hard-court surface in use at this venue.

The two have locked horns four times on hard courts, once indoors, and Siemerink has triumphed in three of their encounters. Like Rusedski, Siemerink excels at the serve-and-volley game, and like Rusedski, Siemerink plays left-handed. With the net certain to be the battleground, opportunities to break will be few and far between, as Siemerink acknowledged yesterday.

"There are going to be a lot of service games where I won't have a chance at all," he said. "There will be perhaps one or two important points during the match and you have to be ready for them. You can't get frustrated; you have to concentrate for the whole match."

Rusedski's gruelling progress over the first two rounds can be interpreted in two ways. The physical toll may leave him vulnerable but the fact that he saved match points in both matches may liberate his spirit.

Rusedski, seeded No 6, won't acknowledge the point, but he has been under intense pressure since he arrived here last weekend. An early exit would have had wreaked havoc on his world ranking. That he wavered on the edge and hauled himself back should have a positive influence.

Some attractive scheduling on Thursday night ensured that this raucous New York crowd was entertained to its liking. Anna Kournikova, the Russian with stardust in her eyes, allowed the gallery to indulge in her perceived beauty. Although Kournikova, 17, thrives on cat-whistles, her 6-3, 6-4 victory over Radka Bobkova, of the Czech Republic, underlined that she remains short of match practice.

The thumb badly sprained on the eve of Wimbledon is responsible for that. Kournikova has since played just one tournament. It showed in the way her usually immaculate groundstrokes sometimes lost their accuracy. Still, Bobkova's limited ambition ensured that Kournikova, seeded No 15, advanced to a fourth-round match encounter with Silvia Farina, of Italy.

After the beauty came the beast. Kournikova was followed out by Goran Ivanisevic, the Croat whose temperament is wholly at odds with this city's heartbeat. He was up against the all-American Todd Martin but the crowd tested him more than his opponent. With his wild eyes admonishing those noisily willing Martin forward, Ivanisevic's mood would have darkened like the skies overhead had he dropped the second-set tiebreak. Instead he squared the match before taking control to prevail 1-6, 7-6, 7-5, 6-3. As Rusedski, a potential quarter-final opponent, will be acutely aware, Ivanisevic remains very much alive.

Results.....36

GARY M. PRIOR/ALLSPORT



Henman was swift to regain his lost composure during his four-set victory over Mantilla yesterday

The noise, the people and the fried onions

Alix Ramsay says Flushing Meadows provides an experience unique among grand slam venues

YOU have all heard it: "Ladies and gentlemen, quiet please". And then a hush falls over Centre Court, a hush in which you could hear a ranking drop. But 13,500 people concentrating solely on the tennis is something you never get at Flushing Meadows.

This is the grand-slam tournament most people love to hate. Set in the less than scenic surroundings of Queens — local landmarks include the Van Dyk Freeway, La Guardia airport and Shea Stadium — Flushing Meadows is a vast and sprawling complex of concrete and noise. These days the departures from La Guardia are re-routed during the Open but the absence of screaming jet engines is more than made up for by the constant babble of the spectators.

All human life is here and everyone seems to be eating. In New York, life is what happens between mouthfuls. As the players sweat in the heat and humidity, the spectators are contemplating their next snack. Quite often, they are walking towards it, even as the rallies are going on. The pre-tournament publicity made much of the fact that the Tex-Mex concession was back, which was obviously as important as the appearance of Pete Sampras and Martina Hingis.

This tournament is supposed to be a sell-out with 27,000 flocking in for the two sessions each day. Quite where they go once through the turnstiles is a mystery — not many of them seem to be watching the matches. During the day the new Arthur Ashe Stadium (capacity 22,500) only ever has a sprinkling of spectators and, unless an American is in trouble, the outside courts are easy to reach. The food-court, on the other hand, is a hive of activity.

Those who do make it to the matches are a restless bunch. Brought up on televised sport where the action takes seconds and the commercials go on for ever, the New Yorkers have a short attention span. The concept of waiting for a break in play before walking slowly to their seats is beyond them and the stands are a constant sea of movement. And should the urge to eat come upon them, they are off again.

Not that food is ever too far away. Court Three, which is supposed to resemble the old No 1 Court at Wimbledon, incorporates a restaurant and often the smoke from a hundred grilling steaks billows across the stadium. Wherever you go the delicate aroma of frying onions hangs in the air.

But this is the new, improved Flushing Meadows. Regular visitors tell tales of the bad old days — the dead rats beside the practice courts, punch-ups between the security guards, steel girders breaking through the surface on the outside courts where the land had not been cleared properly.

Now the players just have to contend with the crowd. The evening punters are a lively bunch. Fuelled up by several bottles of what made Milwaukee famous, they regard tennis as a blood sport. "You have to prove to them you are worth cheering for," the rather too nice Lindsay Davenport sighed.

Some, like Andre Agassi, thrive on the atmosphere in a perverse sort of way. "There are not too many places where you step on court and people are telling you to go get a job, you bum," he said. "I know what a fighter goes through when he's making the long walk to the ring. The crowds line your way and the security guards keep their hands from reaching in. The lights are on, the game face is on — it's quite a feeling."

Tennis players, like journalists, have turned complaining into an art form, but here it is almost possible to feel sympathy for them. The food is notoriously bad while the transport service is famously erratic. "Every meal is special," Andrei Medvedev said. "You never know what to expect. You just eat and hope everything will be OK."

Most players find Flushing Meadows hard going and only the battle-hardened, like Jeff Tarango, enjoy it. "I love it when they boo me, it fires me up," he said. "I played some of my best tennis in college when they were throwing beer. To me, it's exciting."

And yet the US Open has its own charm. Once you accept that it is loud, brash and chaotic everything becomes easier. Wimbledon is a world away and quiet is for wimps. "Ladies and gentlemen, the players are ready" — so hold the onions and pass the mayo.

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EQUESTRIANISM

Nicholson up to second after passing his test

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

A SUPERBLY ridden test from Andrew Nicholson, of New Zealand, on Jane Tolley's 11-year-old Merillion moved him into second place — behind the overnight leader, Paddy Muir, and Archie Brown - at the end of a competitive second day of dressage at the Burghley Pedigree Chum Horse Trials yesterday.

But Nicholson, the winner in 1995 on Buckley Province, knows there is little margin for error among the leaders as the competition moves on to the speed and endurance phase today, when Mark Phillips's formidable 35-fence cross country course will take centre stage.



Stark: relaxed ride

Ian Stark, of Britain, on The Moose, Lady Hartington's mighty gelding - a horse that has improved almost beyond recognition since Badminton in May - is third, 0.4 of a point behind Nicholson, after a light and relaxed test.

Blyth Tait, the Olympic champion, who was so disgruntled with his dressage mark on Thursday that he threatened to withdraw his first horse, Chesterfield, if he was not in the top 15 at the end of the dressage, has moved into fifth place with his second horse, Aspyring. Chesterfield, the pre-event favourite, has dropped to joint-twelfth place - and will compete today. Mark Todd completed the star-studded line-up at the top of the 65-strong field when he moved into sixth position with Stunning, his Bramham runner-up. Less than five marks separate these six.

Nicholson, who took over Merillion from Matt Ryan, the Australian 1992 Olympic champion, 15 months ago is cautiously optimistic after finishing fourth at Punchestown in May. "He's improved each time I've ridden him but he's a very aggressive jumper - I just hope the size of the fences here will back him off."

Tait, who lost valuable marks yesterday with two poor flying changes, expressed the same wish for Aspyring. "If these fences don't back him off I don't know what will," he said. The 13-year-old gelding has won three three-star events and finished ninth at Badminton in May.

Stark appeared the most confident of the leaders. The Moose achieved his career-best performance last month at the Scottish championships at Thirlestane, finishing twelfth.

Todd was relieved with his mark yesterday. "It wasn't as good a test as he did at Bramham," he said, "probably because there was more atmosphere here." Stunning is another newcomer to this level but underlined his ability both at Bramham and at Punchestown last year where he was sixth. "He has a problem with crowds - I just hope he doesn't get distracted tomorrow," Todd said.

Kristina Gifford's bad luck continues. On Thursday she withdrew from the team for the World Championships next month after General Jock, her horse, was operated on for colic. Yesterday Harbinger, her 13-year-old former racehorse, was annoyed by flies and refused to co-operate. They lie joint-54th. .

Simon Barnes, page 41

SPORT IN BRIEF

Gloucestershire want Walsh to carry on

■ **CRICKET:** Gloucestershire have offered a new two-year contract to Courtney Walsh but the fast bowler, 35, will have to declare himself unavailable for the West Indies World Cup squad next year if he accepts the deal. Walsh, whose Gloucestershire career began in 1984, has taken 89 wickets this season. Tony Wright, a former captain, who is retiring, is to join the coaching staff.

Glenn McGrath, Australia's leading fast bowler, broke down in a practice match in Brisbane yesterday and has withdrawn from the squad for the Commonwealth Games. McGrath, who strained a groin muscle, will be replaced by Andrew Bichel, of Queensland.

Bayle takes command

■ **MOTORCYCLING: Jean Michael Bayle, of France, was nearly four tenths of a second faster than Alex Barros, of Brazil, and grabbed the provisional pole with his Yamaha yesterday for the Grand Prix of Imola. Bayle took the 500cc pole with a lap of 1min 49.345sec on the 3.04-mile Enzo and Dino Ferrari Autodrome circuit. In the 250cc division, Tetsuya Harada, of Japan, was nearly a full second faster than Loris Capirossi, of Italy, and took the early spot out front with a time of 1min 53.560sec. In the 125cc class, pole went to Marco Melandri, of Italy, riding for Honda.**

Award for Flintoff

■ **CRICKET:** Andrew Flintoff, of Lancashire, has won the Cricket Writers' Club's young-player-of-the-year award. The 20-year-old all-rounder was one of nine nominations but won by an overwhelming margin. Flintoff, who played twice for England against South Africa during the summer and will tour with the A team this winter, was unable to be present at the club's annual dinner in London last night to receive his trophy because of the NatWest Trophy final today. Steve Harmison, the Durham fast bowler, and Owais Shah, the Middlesex batsman, were joint runners-up.

Ill Radcliffe withdraws

■ **ATHLETICS: Paula Radcliffe, one of England's Commonwealth Games gold medal hopefuls, has withdrawn because of illness. Radcliffe, 24, from Loughborough, was due to compete in the 5,000 metres in Kuala Lumpur, but contracted a virus that has left her unable to train or compete at the highest level. The symptoms became apparent when the world cross country silver medal-winner and 1996 Olympic Games finalist returned from the recent European championships in Budapest.**

On the road again

■ **CYCLING:** The quartet of Jon Clay, Rob Hayles, Matthew Illingworth and Colin Sturgess, responsible for a new British 4,000 metres pursuit record time of 4min 06.360sec in the world track championships last week, are taking to the road tomorrow to compete in the Brian Rourke Grand Prix over a 104-mile course near Stone, Staffordshire. The race is the penultimate event in the season-long Premier Calendar competition, which is led by their Team Brite colleague, Chris Newton, a member of England's Commonwealth Games team.



Deceived: Victoria Adams and Beckham get engaged

هكذا من الأصل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

'I just cried my eyes out. I was brilliant in training, I had been told'

In a devastating account, **Gary** and **Phil Neville** recall the traumatic day when Glenn Hoddle revealed who he was leaving out of his final World Cup squad

PAUL COUSANS



Phil Neville: 'Even if I had wanted to say something I wouldn't have been able to. I wanted to rant and rave but it was better to show some dignity'

Thursday May 28

PHIL: Glenn Hoddle called a meeting before training and announced the team for tomorrow's game [against Belgium]. I was relieved to be in it. This would be my chance to shine.

John Gorman took me to one side in training and dropped a big hint that I was in the squad. "Philip, look me in the eye," he said. "You have not got anything to worry about concerning the squad. You can play in any position, so just enjoy these next few days."

Friday May 29

PHIL: What a time to play badly! I have never felt so bad on a football pitch in my life. I couldn't move my legs. The fact that I hadn't played for a month didn't help. I would go so far as to say it's the worst game I've ever played.



> 'I have never felt so bad on a football pitch. But I didn't think Hoddle would decide on the basis of 45 minutes'

My heart sank when Glenn Hoddle took me off at half-time. All through the second half I replayed my performance over and over in my head, re-living how bad it was.

My only consolation is that I'm sure Glenn Hoddle isn't going to decide about me on the evidence of 45 minutes. We are due to be told who's in the squad on Sunday night. It's going to be a horrible two-day wait.

Sunday May 31

PHIL: I woke up with a sick feeling in my stomach, which stayed with me all day. At breakfast we were each told the time of our appointments with Glenn Hoddle to hear our fates. There were five-minute gaps between each player's meeting; I was down for 4.35pm.

GARY: David Seaman was the first man in at 4.15. Darren was second. They set off while we were still eating. I was third on the list, so I wandered down with Ian Walker a few minutes later. When we got there, David Seaman was still in with Glenn. John Gorman and Peter Taylor were in the room next door with the door open. They were there to comfort those who don't make the cut.

"Bad news, eh?" I joked when David came out. He smiled and punched me playfully.

Then Darren went in and he was with Glenn for about ten minutes. Even though Darren was widely regarded as a borderline case, I always felt he was a certainty if he could prove his fitness. When Darren reappeared, I made a thumbs-up sign.

"Yeah," he said.

"Well done," I told him, and shook his hand.

Even though I was confident, I still felt a pang of nerves as I walked into the Boss's room.

"This is one of the easy ones," Glenn said. "You're obviously in, have a seat." Straightaway, I was relaxed.

"You've done well," he continued. "You play in that right-sided centre back role, and we know you can also play as right back in a flat back four. I'm going to go with three at the back with two wing-backs, so if we come up against a team with a flying left winger, you may have to play right wing back . . ."

Immediately, it hit me: Phil was not in the squad. I thought, there's no way he'd ask me to play at right wing back if Phil was in the squad. Phil's been chosen ahead of me in that position and he's better than me in that role.

Glenn continued talking, but for a while I couldn't concentrate on what he was saying. Eventually I snapped out of it.

When I came out, Ian Walker congratulated me as he went in.

Phil was the only person left in the corridor. "Did he say anything to you?" he asked.

"No," I said. I could see if Phil's eyes that he was really nervous, but I couldn't tell him my fears because I didn't know for sure that he wasn't in.

PHIL: I had the fifth appointment after Seaman, Anderton, Gary and Ian Walker. I walked to Glenn Hoddle's room on the third floor with my heart beating really hard, then waited outside his door with Gary and Ian Walker.

When Gary came out and told me he was in, as soon as I saw his eyes I knew I wasn't. He should have been thrilled to be going to the World Cup, but instead he looked as if he was going to cry. He didn't stop to talk, but went straight back to his room. I was distraught but I tried to compose myself.

A few minutes later, Glenn Hoddle showed Ian Walker out saying, "There'll be plenty of World Cups. Keep your chin up son." Ian went straight into John Gorman's room next door for a chat, without looking at me.

Glenn called me in to his room. He had two chairs facing each other by the window and I sat down opposite him. My heart was thumping and my palms were all sweaty.

"I'm sorry, I'm not taking you to the World Cup," he said.

My head just dropped and my eyes filled up with tears. I couldn't look at him. I stared at the floor as he told me why I wasn't going.

"I was really pleased with you at Tournoi last year, but you haven't taken the chances I've given you since," he explained. "Constantly switching positions at United hasn't helped your cause either.

"Would you like to say anything?" he asked.

But I was speechless. Even if I had wanted to say something I wouldn't have been able to. I just stood up and shook my head. I shook his hand and left without saying a word. I wanted to rant and rave, but that would have been pointless. it was better to show a bit of dignity.

John Gorman was waiting for me outside when I left. "Do you want to speak to me, Philip?" he said, but I just ignored him and walked past. As I went down the corridor I heard him say something about it probably not being the best time. I was so upset, I didn't want to speak to anybody at that moment.

Back in my room I just cried my eyes out. Within seconds Gary knocked on my door. I can't remember the last time I cried and normally I would have felt embarrassed in front of Gary, but he just put his arm around me and said all the right things.

I phoned my Dad and my girlfriend, while Gary kept coming in and out of my room with updates on the squad. Nicky Butt came to my room after his meeting, and from the look on his face when I opened the door I knew he had been left out as well. We didn't say anything, but gave each other a big hug, both with tears in our eyes. Nicky's usually such a tough lad, but even he showed his emotions.

GARY: After my meeting, I went back to my room and rang my Dad immediately to tell him I was in.

"What about Phil?" he asked.

"I'm really nervous, Dad." I replied. Dad later told me it was the first time I'd ever sounded doubtful about Phil's chances. He'd been nervous about Phil getting in for a while, and after he'd spoken to me he didn't have a good feeling at all.

Next I rang up my girlfriend. "I've not told my Dad yet because I don't know for sure," I told her, "but I don't think Phil's going to be in." I was still on the phone to Hannah when I heard Phil's door slam. I told Hannah I had to go.

When I walked to Phil's room, he'd broken down and the worst few hours of my career followed. To be chosen to play in the World Cup should be the greatest thrill of any player's career, but at that point I didn't feel any excitement whatsoever..

Phil was inconsolable. He was sitting on the bed in tears. I just said, "I can't believe it", and put my arm round him. Even though my meeting with Glenn Hoddle had made me fear the worst, I still couldn't take it in. We sat there for a few minutes without saying a word.

Eventually I said, "Who's he taking, then?"

Phil turned round and said, "It must be Andy Hinchcliffe."

I told Phil I'd go next door and ring Dad. When I got through, Dad was broken-hearted. he couldn't believe it,

> 'Hoddle said I had lost form at the wrong time. I knew I'd been playing well'

especially after John Gorman had told Phil he had nothing to worry about.

It was back in my room that I discovered the news about Paul Gascoigne, whose room was next door to mine. I was sitting there upset about Phil when I heard shouting in the corridor. I went outside to find out what was going on and somebody told me that Gazza had been left out. I just could not believe it. I'd never once doubted that Gazza would make the final squad.

PHIL: When I left Glenn Hoddle's room, he gave me a piece of paper which said we were due to leave for the airport in 45 minutes. That was a good thing. I didn't want to hang around.

GARY: I managed to keep my emotions under control until the moment I had to say goodbye to Phil and Nicky. I couldn't handle it anymore and broke down.

After Phil had gone, I went to Scholesy's room and Teddy and Becks came down for a chat. I don't think anybody could believe the squad. Not that we disagreed with it; we were just in a state of shock.

Monday June 1

PHIL: I am still really upset. I still don't know why I'm not in the squad. John Gorman had told me all week I'd been training brilliantly. I listened to Glenn Hoddle's press conference in Spain for some clues but it made me even more confused. He said I had lost form at the wrong time.

It saddened me that this was the reason given: I thought my form for United and England had been good. I played in many positions for United last season but for England I played in my more accustomed wing-back position against Moldova, Cameroun, Chile and for 20 minutes against Saudi Arabia before that nightmare game against Belgium.

I really feel I did nothing to harm my chances. I proved myself in Le Tournoi against Italy, Brazil and France.

GARY: I woke up and went down to my own room to shower and change into my kit, even though I didn't feel like training. As I left, Glenn Hoddle walked past.

"Gary," he said. "I know it was a massive disappointment for you yesterday. It's something I didn't enjoy doing. You've got to make sure that you get yourself right now, that you don't let it affect you."

"Right," I replied. I've always said that when it comes to football the fact that Phil and I are brothers must not come into it. But at this moment it's exceptionally difficult to separate football and family.

On the way to breakfast, I knocked on Scholesy's door and then John Gorman came past. He called me to one side. "I'm absolutely devastated," he said, and could see on his face that he was.

"So am I, John," I replied. "Phil was told he had no worries."

"I know," John said. "He was in, Gary."

The Boss must have made his mind up after the first half against Belgium. There is no case for questioning Glenn Hoddle's choice, though. To my mind, Phil is the best full back in Britain along with Denis Irwin, and he would be in my 22 every time but I'm not burdened with these difficult decisions.

Becks and the whopping phone bill



Deserved: Victoria Adams and Beckham get engaged

Sunday October 5

The England squad gathers for the World Cup qualifier against Italy.

GARY: The FA has put me in the same room for the past two and a half years as I'm superstitious. I used to share with Becks, but I could never get on the phone and I like my early nights. Becks is the worst one for using the phone — he's frightening. I shared a room with him in Georgia for a whole week. Three weeks later, I picked up my wage slip at the club. It had an £800 deduction under "FA telephone bill", though I hadn't used the phone, so I phoned the FA to complain.

"Your room telephone bill for the two of you for that week was £1,600," they said. "There's nothing I can do about it this time," I told them, "but next time will you put me in a room on my own."

God knows where he was ringing that week. The Outer Hebrides or somewhere. To be fair, he's away from his girlfriend and family a lot and it's the only way he can talk to them. Becks and I laughed about it, but since then my England stays have been a lot cheaper and I've had my full nine hours.

DAVID BECKHAM

Friday November 21

After training I went shopping in Manchester with David Beckham. He tried to persuade me to buy a £8,500 Rolex watch. No chance — I've never worn a watch in my life. We spend our money on different things. He said I should live a little!

Sunday January 25

Before we went out on to the training pitch, Becks told me that yesterday he asked Victoria to marry him. He showed me the ring, which looks very impressive. He asked me to be best man, which of course I agreed to straightaway. I remember watching Victoria on *Top of the Pops* when we were away with England. Becks turned to me and said, "I have to be with her!" Now, just eighteen months later, they are getting married. Victoria is lovely and so well suited for Becks: it's been difficult for them, what with all the media attention and being apart for such long periods, so they deserve this happiness.

Becks and Victoria were all over the news after announcing their engagement this afternoon. if they hadn't given a press call there would have been photographers camped outside David's house for days. I thought the two of them handled it perfectly.

Monday January 26

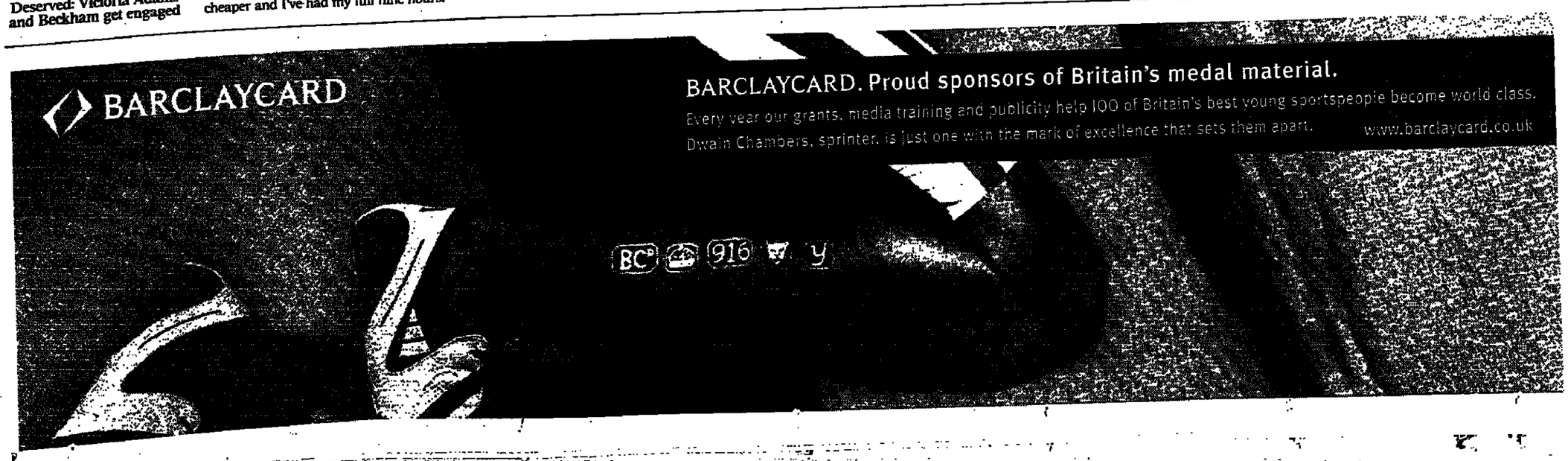
All the lads shook Becks's hand. Apparently, as best man I'm organising the stag night, but the lads said they expect me to book the snooker club in Bury and that they'll not bother coming. Then they took bets on how long it would be before people fell asleep during my speech.

The manager wasn't in today, but he's always happy when his players settle down. I remember when I first came into the squad he was always coming in and saying to certain players, "When are you going to get married?" He believes that it gives a player more stability.

☐ *Extracted from* For Club and Country: the Hunt for European and World Cup Glory, *by Gary and Phil Neville with Sam Pilger and Justyn Barnes (Manchester United Books, £14.99). To reserve a copy phone 01903 736736 (ref: Nevl).*



Best pals: Beckham and Gary Neville enjoying France 98



FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Wales prepare to face Zoff's revolution

BY ROB HUGHES

THE Italy squad now occupying 65 rooms of a hotel hidden away at Ewloe in North Wales ordered blackout curtains to prepare the players of Dino Zoff's *rivoluzioni* for their opening European championship qualifying match against Wales at Anfield tonight.

Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, hopes to plot a surprise, maybe a tactical new role involving Ryan Giggs, that would give Zoff sleepless nights for months into his tenure in charge of the Azzurri. "I hear there's a bit of turmoil in the Italian camp," Gould said. "I'm led to believe there was a bust-up on the training ground between Zoff and Del Piero, who wasn't happy about Roberto Baggio starting a practice match instead of him.

"We are looking for anything positive to gain an advantage. I am wary because when we played Belgium just after Wilfred van Moer left we felt the backlash when the new manager, Georges Leekens, took over. Still, on his night Ryan Giggs is right up with the top players in the world. He lifts us, and I wouldn't assume that Giggs will play in the role Italy are expecting."

The game of bluff is on between the coaches: Gould, once a rumbustious centre forward, versus Zoff, whose grave, dependable, Northern Italian temperament and unflappable goalkeeping saw Italy through 112 internationals, including captaining the victorious 1982 World Cup side.

Zoff has indeed begun a revolution since taking over from Cesare Maldini in July. He dispensed with Pagliuca, the World Cup goalkeeper, two defenders, Bergomi and Costacurta, and three midfield players, Di Livio, Di Matteo and Moreiro. He is likely to leave out Albertini, and is without Paolo Maldini, the captain, who strained an abdominal muscle. In total, the experience of more than 400 caps is missing.

In central defence, ahead of Peruzzi, who returns after injury, Cannavaro is paired with Iulliano, the Juventus utility player. At right back, Torricelli, now with Fiorentina, may be preferred to Panucci, of Real Madrid, in which case, with Torricelli such an adventurer, Gould might rethink his strategy and let Giggs exploit space down that flank. At left back, Serena, 28 but hungry for honours after a struggle to establish himself, is Zoff's preference.

In attack, Vieri, now back in Italy with Lazio, provides the force, whether paired with Baggio or Del Piero. The resurgent Baggio, his fragile body holding together, his class never in doubt, has scored 27 international goals and has in his sights the record of 35 for Italy, owned by Luigi Riva.

Midfield is where Zoff had to restyle the team. He does it with two men of Parma, Fuser on the right and Dino Baggio on the left of centre, and two from AS Roma, the thrusting Di Biagio at Baggio's right hand and Di Francesco on the left. It is here that Italy lacked imagination and drive in the World Cup, even if, again, they were eliminated only on penalties.

That exit came in Paris, against France. Now it is the French, world champions without a reliable centre forward, who feel the cold reality of qualification afresh. Under new management, like more than half of the World Cup nations, they take on Iceland in Reykjavik tonight.

As with Zoff, the task for Roger Lemerre, assuming command from Aimé Jacquet, is to win respect first time out away from home. Unlike Zoff, who eschews Italy's overseas players, selecting not one of the Chelsea quartet, Lemerre has little option but to regroup his scattered troops. However, he cannot field Desailly and Blanc, the two suspended centre backs, so Leboeuf partners Thuram at the heart of defence. Petit is ruled out after a sinus operation.

This first competitive match abroad for France since Euro 96 is a challenge to their status as world champions. For Spain, especially for Javier Clemente, the coach whose reception in Madrid after the World Cup was demeaning, there is a warmer, though not necessarily easier task, a road to redemption in Cyprus.

And among the 22 nations on duty this weekend, few have a more intriguing trip than the Russians. Their homeland is on the brink of insolvency, their political system is undermined, and some of them are asked to win on neighbouring soil where they were born.

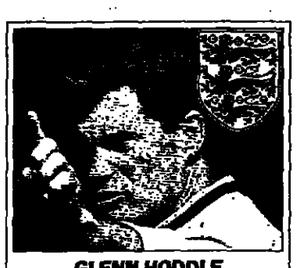
Anatoly Byshovets, Russia's coach for the second time around, was a centre forward in Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, where he begins anew tonight. Andrei Kanchelskis, now with Rangers, also returns to his native Ukraine which, given the choice after the break up of the Soviet Empire, he forsook. It could be a hostile homecoming for former comrades.

FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA GIUOCO CALCIO

FIXTURES: Today: Wales v Italy, Belarus v Denmark. Oct 10: Italy v Switzerland, Denmark v Wales. Oct 14: Wales v Belarus, Switzerland v Denmark. Mar 27, 1999: Belarus v Switzerland, Denmark v Italy. Mar 31: Switzerland v Wales, Italy v Belarus. June 5: Italy v Wales, Denmark v Belarus. June 9: Switzerland v Italy, Wales v Denmark. Sep 4: Belarus v Wales, Denmark v Switzerland. Sep 8: Switzerland v Belarus, Italy v Denmark. Oct 9: Wales v Switzerland, Belarus v Italy

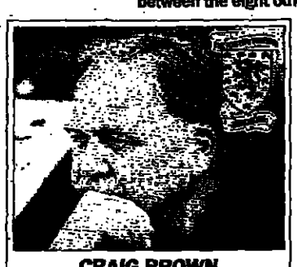
SETTING OUT ON THE ROAD TO THE 2000 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Sixteen nations will take part in the European championship finals in 2000. The joint-hosts, Holland and Belgium, are guaranteed places but the holders, Germany, are not. Forty-nine teams are involved in the qualifying competition, from which the nine group winners qualify automatically, as will the second-placed team with the best group record. The last places go to the winners of four two-legged play-off matches between the eight other group runners-up. The finals run from June 16 to July 2, 2000.



GLENN HODDLE (England)

"We have a tough group, but then it was a tough one for the World Cup. If you remember how we played against Colombia and Argentina, I do not think there is a mountain to climb in terms of performance. But qualifying is about churning out results and the main thing is to get off to a flyer."



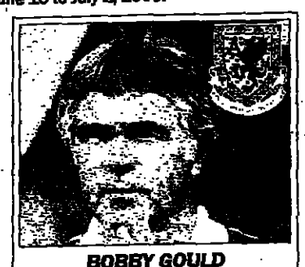
CRAIG BROWN (Scotland)

"This is the first time that we have been seeded and although that is recognition for our record over the past few years, it also brings problems. If we succeed there will be no credit; if we fail there will be ignominy. The danger for us is complacency. The Czech Republic are a major threat."



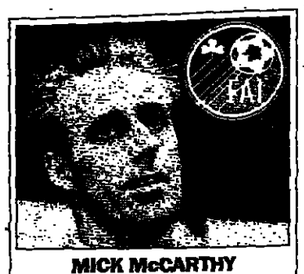
LAWRIE McMENEMY (Northern Ireland)

"Realistically, Germany and Turkey are going to be favourites for our group. We are going to have to rely on our home games when we will have good support and good crowds. Our target is to finish runners-up and get into the play-offs. That would be an achievement."



BOBBY GOULD (Wales)

"We have the most difficult group. But we have trained hard this week on PMA - positive mental attitude. We are lifted by having Ryan Giggs and maybe we can exploit something out of the turmoil of the Italian summer."



MICK McCARTHY (Ireland)

"It is a hard group and, most important of all, we have to make sure we do better at home. Although we did not lose at Lansdowne Road during the World Cup qualifiers, we drew three of the games. It is vital we do better than that this time."

GROUP ONE	GROUP TWO	GROUP THREE	GROUP FOUR	GROUP FIVE	GROUP SIX	GROUP SEVEN	GROUP EIGHT	GROUP NINE
Italy	Norway	Germany	France	England	Spain	Romania	Croatia	Scotland
Denmark	Greece	Finland	Russia	Bulgaria	Austria	Portugal	Ireland	Czech Republic
Wales	Georgia	Turkey	Armenia	Sweden	Israel	Slovakia	Yugoslavia	Estonia
Switzerland	Albania	Northern Ireland	Andorra	Poland	Cyprus	Hungary	FYR Macedonia	Bosnia
Belarus	Slovenia	Moldova	Ukraine	Luxembourg	San Marino	Liechtenstein	Malta	Herzegovina
	Latvia		Iceland			Azerbaijan		Lithuania
								Faroe Islands

Fearless Keane joins battle with Croatia

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON IN DUBLIN

THERE were no blonde-haired teenage girls squabbling for the merest glimpse of him, no overprotective men in dark glasses guiding his every step. When Robbie Keane finished training here yesterday, only a handful of polite autograph-hunters stood in his path. "Keanemania" has yet to afflict Dublin's fair city.

In many aspects, though, the comparison between Keane and Michael Owen, England's *wunderkind*, bears close scrutiny. They are 18, still in the infancy of their club careers and no more than novices on the international stage. They excite, creating ripples of expectation every time they receive the ball, and already wear multimillion-pound price tags. They appear calm, if slightly bemused, amid the media spotlight and are being sensibly groomed for the fame and fortune that lies ahead.

Today, Keane makes his competitive debut for Ireland in their opening group eight European championship qualifying tie against Croatia at Lansdowne Road. With only two and a bit matches behind him, he is charged with leading the attack against the team that finished third in the World Cup.

The prospect, light years removed from playing for Wolverhampton Wanderers in the Nationwide League first division, does not faze him. "I'm delighted to have been picked," he said. "I watched the World Cup finals, in which Croatia were brilliant, and I just wished I could have been there. Things have gone well with Wolves this season and I can't wait to get going."

The emergence of Keane and his ilk represents a marked shift of emphasis. The phasing out of the old guard is almost complete and Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, has selected a side that, even with the inclusion of Denis Irwin, 32, has an average age of 25.

The Ireland players have been buoyant, almost playful, in the build-up to the match this afternoon. Their youthful optimism may yet prove to be misplaced but Croatia appear vulnerable, their preparations having been hampered by injuries to Davor Suker — the leading scorer, with six goals, in France — Alen Boksic and Goran Vlaovic.

At an entertainingly shambolic press conference yesterday, Miroslav Blazevic, the Croatia coach, attempted to impart his multitude of views. Although much may have been lost in the translation, he predicted an awkward assignment.

"We have to forget about our success in France. We have to start again," he said. "This is another opportunity to show how strong we are in very complicated conditions. We will need a lot of courage and fanatical concentration to overcome our handicaps."

On Thursday, Blazevic said he would be happy with a draw. Yesterday, he had altered his opinion. "I watched a video during the night," he said. "We are going to win now."

IRELAND (4-4-2): S Given (Newcastle United) — D Irwin (Manchester United), S Staunton (Liverpool), K Cunningham (Wimbledon), P Babb (Liverpool) — J McAteer (Liverpool), M Kinsella (Charlton Athletic), Roy Keane (Manchester United), D Duff (Blackburn Rovers) — Robbie Keane (Wolverhampton Wanderers), K O'Neill (Norwich City)

CROATIA (3-5-2): D Ladic (Croatia Zagreb) — D Simic (Croatia Zagreb), I Stimac (Derby County), Z Soldo (VfB Stuttgart) — M Stanic (Parma), A Asanovic (Panathinaikos), Z Boban (AC Milan), K Jurcic (Croatia Zagreb), R Jarni (Real Madrid) — S Maric (Croatia Zagreb), I Pamic (Hansa Rostock).

FIXTURES: Today: Ireland v Croatia. Tomorrow: FYR Macedonia v Malta. Oct 10: Malta v Croatia, Yugoslavia v Ireland. Oct 14: Ireland v Malta, Croatia v FYR Macedonia. Nov 18: Malta v FYR Macedonia. Feb 10, 1999: Malta v Yugoslavia. Mar 27: FYR Macedonia v Ireland, Yugoslavia v Croatia. Mar 31: Croatia v Malta, Yugoslavia v FYR Macedonia. June 5: FYR Macedonia v Croatia, Ireland v Yugoslavia. June 9: Yugoslavia v Malta. Sep 4: Croatia v Ireland. Sep 8: Malta v Ireland, FYR Macedonia v Yugoslavia. Oct 10: Croatia v Yugoslavia, Ireland v FYR Macedonia.

Brown calls upon his host of experience

FROM KEVIN McCARRA IN VILNIUS

INTERNATIONAL football is full of demotions. Players regularly find that they have had their stripes removed and been returned to the ranks. In June, Scotland faced Brazil in the opening match of the World Cup amid the technological splendour of the Stade de France in Paris. This afternoon, the team is pitted against Lithuania on a bumpy, unkempt pitch here.

It is by succeeding in fixtures such as that against Lithuania, Scotland's opening match in their European championship qualifying group, that sides earn the right to take their place at the finals of a leading tournament. Even so, a squad must summon the will to make that long ascent.

Craig Brown, the manager, has a party of mountaineers. Several of these men helped to haul Scotland into both Euro 96 and the World Cup finals this year. It is yet to be discovered whether those achievements have sapped their determination and whether the passing years have robbed sinews of their elasticity.

The line-up to play Lithuania begins with the name of Jim Leighton, 40. That particular birthday might be seen as the finishing line for a player, even if he happens to be a goalkeeper. Brown, however, considers that there are a few more laps left in the veteran. The pretenders to his position will have to wait a little longer.

The older members of the team, which has an average age of 31, will realise that Brown's loyalty to them may expire if they give one poor performance. At the end of a career, players must strive to prove themselves, just as they did at its beginning.

Brown feels that, in Lithuania, he will need a side that is schooled in strife. "I would say that the game is going to be competitive. Because of the surface we must try not to play the ball about too much. Paul Lambert and John Collins, our midfield players, are already talking about getting it forward quickly and making runs to support the attack."

Ally McCoist, 35, will be seeking goals, having established his fitnesss, after a calf strain. Although he is to earn his sixtieth cap, McCoist has often been omitted from the Scotland side for important matches and failed to win even a place in the World Cup squad this year and in 1986. For all his fame, the desire for vindication may enhance his performance today.

Lithuania are a sober side who drew with Ireland in Dublin while striving, unsuccessfully, to qualify for the World Cup in France. Kestutis Latoza was subsequently appointed manager and has been experimenting with his team in pre-season matches. It is up to Scotland's old guard to prevent a happy beginning to Lithuania's new era.

SCOTLAND (3-4-1-2): J Leighton (Aberdeen) — M Elliott (Leicester City), C Hendry (Rangers), T Boyd (Celtic) — C Calderwood (Tottenham Hotspur), P Lambert (Celtic), J Collins (Everton), C Dailly (Blackburn Rovers) — D Jackson (Celtic) — A McCoist (Kilmarnock), K Gallacher (Blackburn Rovers)

LITHUANIA (4-4-2): G Stauce (Duisburg) — A Skarbalius (Brondby), A Skerla (PSV Eindhoven), D Semberas (Dynamo Moscow), D Zutautas (Zalgiris Vinius), G Surgzda (Rot-Weiss Erfurt), R Zutautas (Alanin Vladikavkaz), O Bulikus (Baltika Kaliningrad), V Slekys (FC Wil) — E Jankauskas (Club Brugge), G Mikuckenas (KP Polonia)

RESULTS: June 4: Estonia 5 Faeroe Islands 0 Aug 20: Bosnia-Herzegovina 1 Faeroe Islands 0

FIXTURES: Today: Bosnia-Herzegovina v Estonia, Lithuania v Scotland. Tomorrow: Faeroe Islands v Czech Republic. Oct 10: Bosnia-Herzegovina v Czech Republic, Lithuania v Faeroe Islands, Scotland v Estonia. Oct 14: Lithuania v Bosnia-Herzegovina, Scotland v Faeroe Islands, Czech Republic v Estonia. Mar 27, 1999: Czech Republic v Lithuania, Scotland v Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mar 31: Lithuania v Estonia, Scotland v Czech Republic. June 5: Bosnia-Herzegovina v Lithuania, Estonia v Czech Republic, Faeroe Islands v Scotland. June 9: Estonia v Lithuania, Faeroe Islands v Bosnia-Herzegovina, Czech Republic v Scotland. Sep 4: Bosnia-Herzegovina v Scotland, Faeroe Islands v Estonia, Lithuania v Czech Republic. Sep 8: Czech Republic v Bosnia-Herzegovina, Faroe Islands v Lithuania, Estonia v Scotland. Oct 9: Estonia v Bosnia-Herzegovina, Czech Republic v Faeroe Islands, Scotland v Lithuania.

McMenemy ready for warm welcome

FROM GEORGE CAULKIN IN ISTANBUL

LAST night, as a hazy sun began to set over the assorted mosques, spires and tower blocks that merge eclectically here, "welcome to hell" was just about the last phrase that came to mind.

While a warm welcome for Northern Ireland is expected to become decidedly hot during the European championship qualifying match with Turkey at the Ali Sami Yen Stadium today, there has been little sign of the hysteria that marred recent visits by Manchester United to the city's big two clubs, Galatasaray and Fenerbahçe. No angry banners and no jostling mobs: just smiles and autographs.

So, as one hoary old stereotype was laid to rest, Lawrie McMenemy the new Northern Ireland manager, announced his intention to dispatch another in the preamble to his first competitive match at the helm. "I don't want anybody to think I'm a second-class international manager in charge of a second-class international team," he said yesterday.

Northern Ireland's dubious pedigree might suggest otherwise, of course. "I don't see Premiership games very often," McMenemy said, as recruits are usually found in the lower leagues. His brief since being appointed last February has been as much about winning mind games as winning matches.

The analogy McMenemy uses is Southampton, the club he led for a distinguished 12-year spell in the 1970s and 80s. "You have to think positively and remember you have the same stage as everybody else," he said.

"Monday to Friday, Southampton was run as well as any other club and that has to be the key to making any side big."

Turkey are bound to offer a forthright examination, as McMenemy recalled from his days as assistant manager to Graham Taylor with England. "Sixty million people live here and it sounds as though they are all in the ground at the same time," the manager said. "My lads will have to get to grips with that as well as the lighting of newspapers, the fireworks and the drums. I'll paint that picture for them before they go out there."

Confronting them when they do will be a skilful team that beat Holland and put six goals past Wales last year. The scorer of four that day, Hakan Sukur of Galtasaray remains the focal point of what McMenemy calls "formidable opponents. If their finishing was as good as their build-up play, they'd be up there with Brazil."

It is a situation that demands nerves and experience, although in the latter respect McMenemy's cause has hardly been helped by the withdrawal of his captain, Steve Lomas. Iain Dowie takes the arm-band for his first taste of first-team football this season, winning his fiftieth cap in the process.

Another player short of match sharpness is Philip Mulryne, the young Manchester United forward, whose progress at Old Trafford is being blocked by the likes of Paul Scholes and David Beckham. He definitely plays the biggest game of his short career tonight, another out to challenge establishment thinking.

TURKEY (probable, 3-4-3): R Rencber — O Alpay, A Sallet, A Emre — B Okan, K Tugay, Y Sergen, E Abdullah — H Sukur, M Hami, H Sas

NORTHERN IRELAND (probable, 5-4-1): A Fettis — K Rowland, C Hill, S Monrow, A Hughes, K Horlock — K Gillespie, N Lennon, P Mulrvne, M Hughes — I Dowie

FIXTURES: Today: Finland v Moldova, Turkey v Northern Ireland. Oct 10: Turkey v Germany, Northern Ireland v Finland. Oct 14: Moldova v Germany, Turkey v Finland. Nov 18: Northern Ireland v Moldova. Mar 27, 1999: Northern Ireland v Germany, Turkey v Moldova. Mar 31: Germany v Finland, Moldova v Northern Ireland. June 4: Germany v Moldova. June 5: Finland v Turkey. June 9: Moldova v Finland. Sep 4: Finland v Germany, Northern Ireland v Turkey. Sep 8: Germany v Northern Ireland, Moldova v Turkey. Oct 9: Germany v Turkey, Finland v Northern Ireland.

BACK IN THE FRAME

YOU would be hard pushed to find a more infamous substitution than that made by Graham Taylor the last time England played Sweden in Stockholm. With England drawing 1-1, and needing to win to go through to the semi-finals of the 1992 European championship, Taylor took off Gary Lineker, one goal away from equalling Bobby Charlton's record of 49 international goals, and sent on Alan Smith, whose international career yielded two in 13 games. Lineker ripped his captain's armband off, the Swedes won 2-1 and the legend of Turnip Taylor was born.

RICHARD WHITEHEAD

MARK LEECH



Campbell reveals his inner torment

Matt Dickinson on how one of the linchpins of the England team is becoming increasingly frustrated by events at his club

One wonders how much more Sol Campbell can take. How many more times he can bear, like some abandoned general, to stand resolutely in the Tottenham Hotspur defence while his comrades run for cover. How even his indomitable spirit can cope any longer with returning from a colossal England performance to the chaotic misery that is Spurs.

That Campbell has kept his patience, and his international form, for as long as he has done is a small sporting miracle. That his chest, puffed proudly out as he surges upfield, has not been crushed by the strain is testament to his remarkable strength of will. At a club that is a den of bickering and infighting, the 24-year-old has never once stirred the pot of unrest. "It must be the East Londoner in me," he said.

On the eve of the match against Sweden today and his 21st cap, though, there were signs that even Campbell's loyalty is beginning to be tested by Christian Gross's dishevelled regime.

"Some games you are disheartened," he admitted, speaking as frankly as he dared. "There are some games where you wonder what is happening. Whoever comes in as manager, I want him to teach me and make me a better player." There was a silence when he was asked if Gross did not do that. "I'll pass on that," he muttered quietly, but he might as well have shouted his frustration from the Stockholm rooftops.

"The fans are hungry but we are getting left behind and I don't know why. Other teams are spending money, spending wisely. The best team I have known at Spurs was three years ago, when we got to the semi-final of the FA Cup, Ossie's [Ardiles] team with a bit of Gerry Francis thrown in. It's about chemistry and balance. It was right but for some reason it fell apart. We are a good side but the balance is just not there at the moment.

"When you think about it, Tottenham have never really achieved what they should have. We won the FA Cup but we have never been good in the league — except in 1961 — and yet the club has had fantastic players."

One suspects that Campbell will not tolerate such underachieving for long, although his loyalty thus far has been unswerving.

"Am I itchy for honours? Well, there's a question. In time things will open up and I will make the right decision. But you can't just decide 'I'll go there and win something'. You've got to be happy with the environment. I've got a three-year contract. I'll wait and see. I am young. If I was 26 or 27, it would be different."

If Campbell were at the heart of the Liverpool defence, a championship would surely not be beyond them. Michael Owen would approve such a move, the Anfield prodigy admitting this week that Campbell was the toughest defender he had faced.

"That's nice coming from him," Campbell said, before returning the compliments. "There is no striker like Michael. He's got touch, pace, scores goals and he's brave as well. His size helps — he's so small that he gets under your arms. And there is no one else like him who goes wide so he can run at you with that pace. When he gets on your shoulder it's all over. You have to keep him in front of you, but it's hard because there is so much movement. It can be really frustrating." But not half as frustrating as playing for Spurs.

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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Hodgson happy to bide his time with Rovers

One of the game's shrewdest tacticians is in no hurry to manage England



Hodgson is adamant that Blackburn can mount a realistic title challenge this season. Photograph: Paul Cousans

Bobby Robson thinks that Kevin Keegan should be next in line for the England job. A group of readers who voted in a recent newspaper poll picked out Bryan Robson as their choice to take over from the present hapless incumbent. Given the recent eccentricities, inanities and vacuities of Glenn Hoddle, some of us have even been persuaded of the merits of Icky the Eyeball Twister in comparison.

But up in Lancashire, where Icky is commonly called upon as a kind of panacea, a catch-all answer to all manner of awkward questions, the best candidate of all, the one that all the smart money has been riding on, is busy constantly enhancing his own reputation with the kind of quiet, efficient, intelligent work that makes him the antithesis of Hoddle.

Hoddle just thinks he is clever but Roy Hodgson, the manager of Blackburn Rovers, is as sharp and tactically astute as they come. Where Hoddle has lost the respect and the faith of his players, Hodgson has gained the admiration of his. Where Hoddle exhibits all the signs of a closed mind and a siege mentality, Hodgson is refreshingly open and candid, a coach for this age of footballing enlightenment.

Even the mandarins of the Football Association, so myopic in their views that they reacted to Hoddle's diary ravings, his wholesale betrayals of trust and England's premature World Cup exit by offering him a new two-year deal, have quickly recognised the worth of Hodgson since his return to England at the beginning of last season and are known to favour him as the current coach's successor whenever he should choose to leave.

Tonight, if England confound expectation and lose in Sweden, the country where Hodgson made his name as a coach by winning seven league titles with Halmstad and Malmo, then the crisis of confidence that Hoddle has brought upon himself is bound to deepen. For the Blackburn manager, though, the increased speculation that would cause about his future would mean another helping of embarrassment.

It is not that Hodgson, who guided Switzerland to the 1994 World Cup finals, coached Inter Milan for two years and, last season, transformed Blackburn from relegation fodder into a top-six side, does not want to be England manager one day. He is even honest enough to admit that he is flattered by the fact that he has been linked with it.

His only concern is that others, and particularly Hoddle, should know that he has not encouraged any of the gossip. He shares many attributes with Terry Venables, most specifically that he is a players' coach and that he defies the stereotype of a football manager. But unlike Venables, he is not a lobbyist or a schemer. He is happy continuing to oversee the revival he has wrought at Blackburn. He does not covet a move elsewhere.

"I think you have got to aspire to the England job in the fullness of time," Hodgson said. "It must be one of the greatest honours for any football coach to be offered the chance to coach his country. But it is not an ambition as such and I don't go to bed at night thinking 'if I do well at Blackburn, maybe I'll get the England job'. There is no question of that.

"It would have to be something that comes along on a very natural basis but if the day ever came, I think you'd have to take it. It might be like accepting a poisoned chalice. It might involve following someone who had done a fantastically successful job so you are duty bound to fail. It could be that you will be inviting the type of mass media invasion of your life that you would not want. But unfortunately if you have got anything about you at all, if you have got any ambitions, any pride in your profession then you would have to take it.

"I can't stop people speculating but it upsets me for the person in the job. If I am ever lucky enough for that day to come around, I am also going to lose a couple of games as England manager and then I am going to have to read about someone else being touted for the job. It is something that I am very proud of and I am very happy people are mentioning my name. All I'm saying is it puts me in a very ambivalent position. I like it and it's great but at the same time it embarrasses me.

"Glenn and I spoke quite a lot when I first came to Blackburn and I met him once in the summer in Toulouse. We don't speak as much now but there is no strain in our relationship as far as I am concerned. If it is strained at all, it may be because he is reading that if he leaves the job I am a candidate.

"I hope he still feels that if he needs information about potential England players he is going to be able to ring me. I hope he doesn't think I am looking for his job because anybody who knows me would immediately realise that is not the case. I came back to Blackburn Rovers to be their manager and do a good job for them. I have a great relationship with the club owner, Jack Walker, that I value, and I am very happy at Blackburn."

Hodgson has become so important to the Lancashire club in his year in charge that he is seen as the glue that holds it together, its best selling point in attracting new players. The England job might have been an obvious topic of conversation as this evening's match approaches but if Walker needs any reassurance, an hour's chat with his manager spreads far, far beyond the realms of the national team.

It centres on his ambitions for Blackburn, the fact that he refuses to accept that the club cannot mount a realistic challenge for the title this season despite the supposed closed shop of Arsenal, Manchester United, Liverpool and Chelsea. He is enthusiastic, in particular, about building for the long term at Ewood Park, about his purchase of promising young players like Kevin Davies, Christian Dailly, Sebastian Perez and Jimmy Corbett.

"It's got to be your ambition to win the title," Hodgson says. "All self respecting coaches will fight and dream and hope for a title. We are realistic. We know there is only one and there are 20 of us going for it and that we are not favourites. But if you put yourself in the race and you know you are not going to be outclassed in the race when you go to the starting blocks you have got to believe you can come first.

"It may happen that when you get 20 metres from the finishing line, you see a big powerful bastard you couldn't possibly hope to compete with fly past you running at a speed you could never achieve. But at the moment that man has not showed his power."

> 'You have got to believe a good work ethic will bring success'

He is a compelling talker, a man with strongly-held views about the direction of the modern game, about the iniquity of the fact that standards of professionalism have fallen so far that players are coming to be regarded as assets if they observe minimum requirements like turning up on time for training. It pains him that there appears, in English life in general, to have been "a decline in the search for quality".

It is becoming harder and harder, he says, to keep the "kernel" of the game pure, free of casing that wraps itself ever more thickly around his players in the form of the myriad distractions and temptations that they face. He talks vividly and with a quietly aggressive conviction that has impressed all those who have encountered him. There is an honesty about him, too, and a readiness to accept being a hostage to fortune that one feels would stand him in good stead for the perils of the England job.

"Even if you are happy that the club is working well and functioning properly," he said, "you can never give a guarantee that because everything is hunky dory we will now get results. Sometimes you don't. But you have got to believe if you believe in work at all that a good work ethic, a good moral fibre running through the club, will bring success and not failure.

"The qualities that propel you forward in your profession are not the qualities needed to deal with criticism and with people attacking you. So you have got to become a split personality. You have got to be the aggressive, dynamic, powerful, combative, will-to-win person with the team and all of your coaches and then suddenly as soon as you leave the training ground, you have got to become the sage."

That is the conundrum Hoddle cannot master. Hodgson is already putting it into practice.

OLIVER HOLT



City fortunes lack rhyme and reason

Mark Hodkinson on how poetry is easing the suffering of supporters

BLUE MOON

First World War soldiers had the poets, Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon, at their side, men able to proffer words of compassion and empathy among the monstrous anger of the guns.

Manchester City supporters, and they know plenty about dodging flak, have turned to a famous Scottish bard in their darkest hour. Robbie Burns, no less, is quoted in the latest issue of the City fanzine, *King Of The Kippax*: "To see her is to love her, and love her forever. For nature made her what she is, and will support her evermore." The line with the most resonance and relevance is "For nature made her what she is." Nature, damn it, made City capricious, foolhardy, a club that stares at the stars but crashes into a lamppost, ouch, while its gaze is averted.

This season, their first outside English football's top two divisions, has been typical, painfully typical. Pundits foretold that they would storm through the division, scoffing at the cloggers at their heels, chuckling in their laser blue. The City fans remained silent. They know that Maine Road is Heartbreak Hotel, or, better still, Bates Motel, a place where the strange is commonplace.

Among their supporters, nothing is taken for granted. Too often City feels like the kind of place where cursed skulls are tossed around like frisbees and black cats are culled on a weekly basis. If City lined up against the Red Lion Second XI (playing with only ten men because their giant centre half had pulled a stomach muscle in a curry "incident" the night before), they would create 47 goalscoring chances, miss them all, and concede a goal, an own goal obviously, in the ninetieth minute.

A month into the new season, they have played five league matches, won two, drawn two, and lost one, which, sad to say, is patently not the form of league champions elect. They beat Walsall with ease on Wednesday night, but they are still only in eighth position. In short, it is not going to be a stroll, but more of a brisk walk with a stone in your hiking boots.

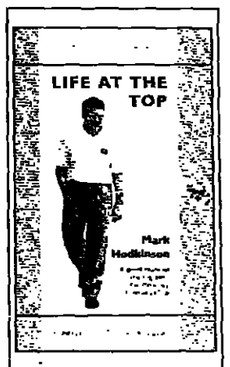
Once more, the litany of fiendish ironies has beset them: different division, same curse. They lost heavily against Fulham, so more than 10,000 attended Maine Road to see them against Notts County — admittedly, it was a Worthington Cup match — when they went on a goal frenzy and won 7-1. Seven-bloody-one, and two thirds of City's following missed it. Fists were pounded on to tables, ornaments sent crashing.

Never mind, they cried, since another home game, against Wrexham, was looming just three days later. Oh, such fun; poxy Wrexham, a team containing Ian Rush, the only player in the league older than the Queen Mother. This was a case for the League Against Cruel Sports, a lurcher let loose in a hen coop. Dutifully, 27,677 skipped merrily to Moss Side, calculators in their rucksacks. Oh, such pain — a 0-0 draw. Now we know why Ken Barnes from Ashton-under-Lyne sent the club a photo of himself by the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. Move along, Ken, there are another 27,676 jostling for space.

Perhaps the proposed move to a new £90 million stadium in east Manchester will allow City to rid themselves of their famous ill-luck. Fans have been asked to vote on the move, pencilled in for 2003, though club officials are in support. "I believe this is a unique opportunity for the club as we go into the twenty-first century," David Bernstein, the club chairman, said. He strenuously denied that the stadium's site was chosen merely because a four-leafed clover had been discovered in a nearby field.

Since the departure of Georgi Kinkladze, City fans have become restless in their pursuit of a new hero. Their rush to deify young players such as Nick Weaver, Gary Mason and Nick Fenton is rash, and inadvertently reveals their desperation. "I got my first glimpse of not one but two raw youngsters [Mason and Fenton] who are going to make the whole of English soccer sit up and take notice," Paul Hince, the chief sports writer of Manchester Evening News, sang. Steady on, lad, we've been here before.

Three years ago, Martin Phillips, then 19, joined City from Exeter City. "He will become Britain's first £10 million player," Alan Ball, the City manager at the time, said. In the week that Fenton, Mason et al were prematurely acclaimed, Phillips, quietly, was sold to Portsmouth. The fee? Just £100,000, one per cent of the amount predicted by Ball. The teenagers in the present City side are promising, but they need time to gel as a team. Great players emerge from good teams, and good teams take time and patience to build. Joe Mercer would have confirmed as much.



Life at the Top, Mark Hodkinson's account of Barnsley's year in the Premiership, is on sale in bookshops

Sturrock steps in as McLean exits

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

DUNDEE UNITED yesterday parted company with their manager, Tommy McLean. The Tannadice club are second from bottom of the Premier League with only a single point from their opening four games.

Paul Sturrock, formerly manager of United's Premier League rivals, St Johnstone, was named as his successor. Sturrock, 41, was at the helm when St Johnstone won promotion to the top flight in 1997.

McLean stepped down "by mutual and amicable agreement with the board of directors", according to a statement issued by the club. The decision was reached after discussions between the board and McLean. The statement continued: "Mr McLean has been a loyal and valued servant of Dundee United and the board wishes to record its heartfelt thanks for all his efforts."

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, insisted yesterday there is no problem between Paul Merson and Paul Gascoigne, two of his club's leading players.

A newspaper report claimed that Merson, who signed a new five-year contract with Middlesbrough at the end of last season, was poised to join another FA Carling Premiership side because of his deteriorating relationship with Gascoigne. Robson, who spent the summer defending Gascoigne after he was left out of the England World Cup squad, said: "I have not got it in my mind to sell Paul. This story is sheer rubbish. If you buy comics, you get comic book stories."

Queens Park Rangers have parted company with Clive Berlin, their chief executive. The move is thought to be part of a cost-cutting exercise by the troubled London club, whose shares have slipped from more than £1 to just 13p.

Warnock helps to put Bury on the map

BY STEPHEN WOOD

Bury Football Club is showing the classic symptoms of Wimbledon-itis. A small and tightly knit set-up, criticised for its no-frills style but with team spirit others would die for, Bury are emulating the journey from lower league existence that the South London club made in the 1980s.

There is one slight difference, however. If Wimbledon's mentality was "you don't like us and we don't care", Bury's is more like "you don't know anything about us and that's not fair."

Having the names of your players spelt incorrectly is one thing, finding the name of your team spelt wrong, as has happened with "Berry" in the past couple of seasons, is another. Goings-on at Gigg Lane are hardly afforded lavish attention in the media, either, something the supporters feel ever more aggrieved about.

That could be about to change and, with it, Bury's place in obscurity. The team is unbeaten, has yet to concede a goal, lies third in the Nationwide League first division and, on present standings at least, has become Greater Manchester's second club. Today they face Birmingham City in a match of "David versus Goliath" contrasts that Bury have grown used to.

Bury in the Premiership? The signals from the club itself are contradictory, as if they are still rather unsure of their status. Hugh Eaves, the leading shareholder and a stockbroker based in London who has bankrolled the club over the past decade, is optimistic. Two of their best players, goalkeeper Dean Kiely and defender Chris Lucketti, have committed themselves for another season to see what develops.



Warnock: relies on the unexpected

Neil Warnock, the manager, knows differently and is not about to betray his honesty. "If we were to get to the Premiership, for my next trick I'd walk on water and embrace the chairman on the other side," Warnock said.

"People don't give us enough credit for what we have achieved. Of course I use the mentality of 'them against us' to motivate us sometimes. But it can only do so much. Bury is a super little club but the resources are nowhere near the size of even Barnsley or Charlton. We have such a small squad and very little money to back us up. So if we even pick up two injuries, we will be in trouble. All I want is to guarantee our safety in this division."

Warnock took charge last June and, behind his short tenure is a long history of careful planning that has given Bury some strong foundations. Neville Neville, the commercial director, who is the father of England pair, Gary and Phil, said: "Some people want us to really have a go at getting even higher and to take risks, but that is not the way.

"We run the business sensibly and we've had success in recent years. When I arrived 13 years ago our ground was 90 per cent wood and condemned as the most unsafe after the tragedy at Bradford. Now there is just one end to redevelop and the attendances are gradually increasing as well."

Progress on the pitch has been remarkably quick. Stan Ternent, the previous manager, took over with Bury 22nd in the third division in 1995. That season, however, they were promoted and the next year they reached the first division as champions of the second division.

Warnock is building on that record successfully. He relies on the unexpected, like forcing his players off the team bus early to run to training and supplying them with bananas and chocolate in the dressing room during matches. "They all come to work with a smile on their faces now," he said.

In many ways, Warnock, who relishes challenges when the odds are stacked against him, is the perfect man for Bury. If he stays long enough, however, even the sceptic in him might be replaced by Eaves' unswerving ambition.

At present looking for different ways of raising capital to support Bury's status, Eaves, a lifetime fan as well as director, said: "It might sound rather strange for Bury to be in the Premiership or European Super League, but you just never know."

Warrall to make bow for Everton

THE defending women's Premier League champions, Everton, will be pushed to retain their title this season with Doncaster Belles, Arsenal, and Croydon the main challengers to their crown (Cathy Gibb writes).

Everton begin their defence with a home game against Croydon on Sunday. Their side will include three new signings — the England goalkeeper Andrea Warrall, from Stockport, Cheryle Jones, a striker, from Bangor City, and Helen Jones, a midfielder, from Wrexham.

Arsenal, last season's Premier league runners-up and the FA womens cup winners, open their campaign away at Bradford City while Doncaster Belles are away to Tranmere Rovers. Millwall Lionesses, who have moved from the Fisher Athletic Ground to Herne Hill Stadium, start with a game at their new headquarters against Liverpool.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

So, whose game is it anyway?



Is there a single good thing to be said for a European super league? Has there, since *The Simpsons*'s Mr Burns hatched a scheme to harness the sunlight and market it on a commercial basis, been a more creepy, base, slippery, cold-eyed monster of an organisation than the hilariously named Media Partners plc?

One can barely imagine the chilling series of meetings at which this filthy scheme was hatched. Hatched by people who need a chasing up the high street by the foulest soccer hooligans the game has thrown up: scummy, violent psychopaths who, while degraded and foul, have more understanding and a greater moral right to determine British football than the board of Media Partners plc.

What unbelievable arrogance is it that is leading some FA Carling Premiership chairmen to believe that their team is so far advanced of the rest of the pack that they need the stiffer competition and fatter troughs of Europe's finest to keep their bloated, overrated, underachieving clubs amused? It is these same financiers who seem to have cemented the idea that, without their unstinting and altruistic input, 90 per cent of all English clubs would have gone to the wall in about 1978.

I mean, it is taken as given that big business actually saved football in this country. Sure thing. In the same way that clearing old neighbourhoods into high-rise council estates saved working-class communities back in the Sixties, right guys?

And yet football will, sooner or later, follow the communities that birthed it into the abyss. It will be pasteurised and flattened. It has already become depressingly cold and distant as its very basic joys and humanity are throttled for a whizz on the markets. Good God, some of these people even use the words "not a game any more, it's a business" as some kind of hard-on reprimand for those who refuse to get in on the killing. But if it is now a business, then what's the point? Shut the thing down, it's all gone wrong.

Old hippie that I am, I am starting to believe that the hysterical demonising of the football supporter these past 20 years has all been part of the softening up of the sports traditional followers so there would be nary a squeak when the game was finally taken away from them altogether. Who now would dare to protest with a pitch invasion? Who now would dare rally a football crowd to march on a boardroom hospitality suite, to organise a sit-in, to utter even the most basic chant of unrest? Even the most legal, heartfelt and righteous protests these days are beaten back with the despicable invoking of Hillsborough. Mass objections — and supporters really will organise over this — about the Super League will certainly not escape without such a lecture.

Well I'm sick and tired of being bashed over the head with Hillsborough, Heysel and all the other useful PR disasters that big business has exploited to disenfranchise football fans. The Euro super league will splinter football eventually into the kind of ever-fragmenting chaos that put paid to heavyweight boxing. Soccer will descend into a grotesque sham of itself, embarrassingly forced to ape the same desperate cosmopolitan hucksterism that big business and advertising tried and failed with American football in Europe.

However, American football did not have to shed its thornier fan base first. The bulls and bears of business are not the scariest creatures in the wheeler-dealer woods any more and the uprooting of soccer will not be without its own vigorous type of eco-warriors. I sincerely hope the people's game is not given up without a very noisy fight indeed.

WALSALL EXPRESS & STAR



Kearns and Rosie show there are no hard feelings in Walsall

Pets may win prizes but no animal magic

In all the stink over Brazil's failure to take part in the World Cup final and the slimey trail left by Glenn Hoddle's book, it has been very easy to overlook the outcome of the Pet World Cup simultaneously staged in Walsall.

However, Gaynor Baner writes from the Midlands to say that the Pet World Cup went ahead in the car park of a department store. It was open to all domestic animals, although, on the day, only one cat disturbed the otherwise uniformly canine line-up.

According to the *Express & Star*, the Pet World Cup was something of a non-starter. All our furry friends had to do was nudge or nose the ball toward the goal whereupon a selection of "Walsall Players Past and Present" would attempt to "save" it. Those pets who did best from five nudges went through to the next round.

However, not a single pet showed even the remotest interest in nudging, nosing, pawing or scrambling at anything but each other's rear ends. In the end, the trophy was given to a cross-bred terrier called Rosie, whose accidental brushing of the ball in passing sent it at an interestingly low speed toward former Ireland international Mick Kearns standing between the sticks.

The report states that Mick "easily saved" the effort but the spoils went to Rosie anyhow. Now then. Wouldn't you think that a former international might have let in the only shot of the day to roll anything like goalwards? Isn't "easily saving" an accidental attempt from a cross-bred terrier just a little mean-spirited?

Couldn't the event have done with a goal? Whatever, Mick was having no truck with his four-legged opponent and chose to "easily save" the only chance of the day. Raspberry-blowing modern football in a nutshell.

No place like home? Who are you kidding?

In Zagreb, one man is dead and another is in hospital with multiple fractures after they both went for the same ball and fell from the top of a 13-storey tower block. Their pitch, it seems, was perfectly marked out — full size and with netted goals — on top of the council flats and had been the home ground of EC Daszna Society for the past two years.

"We lost our last pitch to building expansion," Dalj Odzaci, the Daszna captain/coach, said, "and the rooftop was meant to be temporary. However, we found playing so high unnerved our opposition and, though our away record is poor, we are unbeaten at this altitude."

Dalj, who was arrested for trespass and endangering life — they charged up to 150 supporters admission on to the roof — was pressed as to the drawbacks of such dizzying fixtures. He would have none of it.

"People think we lost about 50 balls a game but the figure was a fraction of that. We positioned younger children of the area all around the block. They put the balls back in the lift where, thanks to a fireman's key, they came straight to us on the roof without stopping," he said.

"If anything, playing in the air concentrated passing and prevented many long-ball teams from performing. The only true danger is attacking on the right toward one goal. There is no railing and only one metre to the edge. It is from here that my colleagues fell."

FC Daszna have been offered a groundshare with another local amateur side but have elected to disband after authorities ruled their high-rise home ground illegal. I can sympathise with their decision totally.

This story highlights the importance of intimidating venues. In the clamour to turn every football ground into an experience somewhere between the local community centre and the food court in some faceless shopping mall, the idea that home grounds should actually scare the living bejesus out of your opposition was discarded for being hopelessly retro.

To whose advantage are grounds such as The New Den? The supporters who voted against a move and still feel like visitors? The team, who can sense no history, roots or tradition in this airless stopover in their careers? The old team, who have all since gone to ruin pubs, drive cabs or run brothels? The board (see last list)? Or the away teams, who are reassured and welcomed and luxuriate in an away fixture played at a virtually neutral ground, where their wives can get a good meal while they lift away the points like the limp skin from a cooling cup of hot chocolate?

This is no maudling selective nostalgia. Five years in, our new ground is still a hopeless venue for a passionate affair. The old place may have been a pirate ship but give me that anyday over the Holiday Inn. Which is why, as the chains go on the precarious venue in the sky over Zagreb, its former tenants choose oblivion over compromise. Good for them.

FACT: Stockport's programme has a lifestyle section complete with wine columns.

Nationwide 1, Premiership 0

It is surprising that so many people have questioned my comments concerning how little interest supporters of lower-league clubs have in the Premiership. In short, they refuse to believe it. They actually seem to feel that fans of Chester, Barnet, Peterborough and Bury sit down in their pubs and argue about Chelsea signings and Arsenal team selection. Moreover, there is some bridling when I say that followers of Nationwide League clubs really don't wish their sides were like Manchester United or Liverpool.

They cannot accept football is a flat landscape and that you are over there, we are over here, and that is all there is to it. Surely, they say, we would rather watch world-class football every week. Ugh.

Having attended my first and only Premiership game two weeks ago — with Aston Villa and Middlesbrough, like Dwight Yorke's house guests, clearly unaware the event was being filmed — I am in a good position to comment on the puffed-up Premier League. It is just as lousy as elsewhere although at those prices not entitled to bung out even one bad game. I end the argument by trying to fight snob appeal with snob appeal. The Premiership is Hollywood. Big names and wages, big productions, big noises. Manufactured personalities and continual special effects. Schwarzenegger, Cruise, Van Damme.

However, the chances of finding anything truly lasting, original or rewarding are virtually nil. The lower leagues are the art house movies. Quiet, thoughtful, able to experiment and not afraid to portray life in the raw. While financially perilous, they are the crucible of the art. It may look like nothing is happening on screen but the emotions are engaged at a deeper level. It is while my confronters' jaws are hanging agape at this broadside that I nip back into the public bar.

Footballing fanfares for the uncommon people

Still no confirmation as to why Clydebank take the field to Radiohead's *Karma Police*, but lots of new light on what other clubs choose as their anthems thanks to reader John de La Cruz. For some reason, the news that Colchester enter the arena at each home match to the *Post Horn Gallop* is one that warms a rainy Wednesday afternoon for me. Just as pleasing is the thought that Queens Park Rangers and Bury ran out last weekend to Robbie Williams's *Let Me Entertain You*, then ran back in 90 minutes later having drawn 0-0. And what do we make of Ipswich's *Entry Of The Gladiators*? Surely here was an anthem booked on its title alone by a gormless junior clerk unaware that it's mock-pompous fanfare has ushered in more clowns over the years than Tottenham's scouting system.

Oldham Athletic band Fulham panic their teenage following with a little ELP, Ayr chance Sham 69's *If The Kids Are United*, while Preston go fancypants with an excerpt from *Aida* and Plymouth likewise with *Semper Fidelis*. Against this we have Manchester United's predictable *Eye Of The Tiger*, Blackburn's tired *The Final Countdown* and as for Chelsea's self-regarding Chelsea, Chelsea, the less said the better.

SPREAD EAGLE

ENGLAND start their Euro 2000 campaign today and return to the infamous vegetable patch where the Swedes made them look like turnips in 1992. I wonder if Graham Taylor will be watching. Anyway, it's a game that neither side will want to lose and looks like being a tight affair, which is reflected in the spread markets.

Both Sporting Index and City Index foresee an England victory but their supremacy spread of 0-0.3 means that they do not believe that there will be a glut of goals. City offer the more generous spread on the total goals of 2.3-2.6. Do I not like that!

A cagey game with few goalmouth incidents leaves the way open for a bet on the total number of corners in the match. Internationals are usually low on the corner count, so my tip is to sell on Sporting's offer of 10.5-11.5. Just remember to try to not get too carried away and cheer whenever a defender lunges at the ball on the byline to hack it away for a throw-in.

For those of you with a very warped sense of football humour — or more money than sense — Sporting offer the intriguingly titled "Gentlemen Prefer Blonds" spread. This works on a points system with two being awarded for every header made by a peroxide plumage, five for a header on target and 25 for a headed goal. And for good measure, they even throw in five points for a shot on target from a player in yellow boots. The quote is 48-52.

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GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
Pools coupon numbers in brackets

Today

European championship
Qualifying group one
(—) Wales v Italy (at Anfield, 7.45) .....

Group three
(—) Turkey v Northern Ireland (at Istanbul, 6.30) .....

Group five
(—) Sweden v England (at Rasunda Stad, Stockholm, 5.0) ...

Group eight
(—) Ireland v Croatia (at Lansdowne Road) .....

Group nine
(—) Lithuania v Scotland (at Vilnius) .....

Nationwide League
First division
(1) Birmingham v Bury .....
(-) Huddersfield v Sheffield Utd .....
(2) Queens Park Rangers v Barnsley P
(3) Stockport v Grimsby .....
(4) Swindon v Bristol City .....
(5) Watford v Norwich .....P

Second division
(6) Blackpool v Northampton .....
(7) Bristol Rovers v Preston .....
(8) Chesterfield v Gillingham .....
(9) Fulham v Wycombe .....P
(10) Lincoln v Oldham .....
(11) Luton v Burnley .....
(12) Notts County v Wigan .....
(13) Stoke v Bournemouth .....
(14) Walsall v Reading .....P
(—) Wrexham v Macclesfield .....
(15) York v Colchester .....

Third division
(16) Barnet v Peterborough .....
(—) Brighton v Swansea .....
(17) Cambridge Utd v Scarborough .....
(—) Cardiff v Plymouth (12.15) .....
(18) Exeter v Chester .....
(19) Hull v Brentford .....
(20) Leyton Orient v Carlisle .....
(21) Mansfield v Darlington .....
(22) Rochdale v Shrewsbury .....
(23) Scunthorpe v Torquay .....
(24) Southend v Rotherham .....

The Football Conference
(40) Cheltenham v Morecambe .....
(41) Doncaster v Forest Green .....
(42) Farnborough v Leek .....
(43) Hereford v Hayes .....
(44) Kettering v Kidderminster .....
(45) Northwich v Kingstonian .....
(46) Stevenage v Southport .....
(47) Telford v Dover .....
(48) Welling v Hednesford .....
(49) Woking v Barrow .....
(—) Yeovil v Rushden and Diamonds ....

Scottish League
First division
(25) Ayr v Hamilton (12.0) .....
(26) Clydebank v Hibernian .....
(27) Raith v Greenock Morton (1.0) .....
(28) St Mirren v Falkirk (2.0) .....
(29) Stranraer v Airdrie .....

Second division
(30) Forfar v Clyde .....
(31) Inverness CT v Arbroath .....
(32) Livingston v East Fife .....
(33) Partick v Alloa .....
(34) Stirling v Queen of South .....

Third division
(35) Berwick v Ross County .....
(36) Cowdenbeath v Brechin .....
(37) East Stirling v Dumbarton .....
(38) Montrose v Albion .....
(39) Queen's Pk v Stenhousemuir (1.0)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Dorchester; Boston v Bromsgrove; Burton Albion v Cambridge City; Crawley v Nuneaton; Grantham v Merthyr; Gresley v Salisbury; Hastings v Weston; King's Lynn v Gloucester; Tamworth v Bath City; Weymouth v Halesowen; Worcester City v Rothwell. **Southern division:** Brackley Town v Andover; Havant and Waterlooville v Raunds T; Stamford v Newport IoW. **Midland division:** Bedworth v Clevedon; Blowell Town v Bilston; Cinderford v Stamford AFC; Solihull Boro v Moor Green; Stourbridge v Evesham.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop Auckland v Runcorn; Blyth Spartans v Altrincham; Chorley v Whitby; Colwyn Bay v Frickley; Emley v Accrington Stanley; Gateshead v Bamber Bridge; Guiseley v Winsford; Hyde v Spennymoor; Lancaster v Chester; Uxbridge v Staines; Whyteleafe v Braintree; Yeading v Bognor Regis. **Second division:** Bracknell v Windsor and Eton; Chalfont St Peter v Edgware; Harlow v Tooting and Mitcham; Hungerford v Leighton Town; Met. Police v Hertford.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Everton v Manchester Utd (12.0).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ballymena v Portadown; Crusaders v Cliftonville; Glenavon v Omagh; Linfield v Coleraine; Newry v Glentoran.

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Finn Harps v Waterford (7.30); Sligo v Bohemians (6.0).

ULSTER FIRST DIVISION CUP: First round, first leg: Ards v Carrick; Bangor v Distillery; Larne v Ballyclare; Limavady Utd v Dungannon Swifts.

SCHWEPPES ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: League Cup: Brentwood v Concord Rangers.

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon v Fairford; Banbury v Tuffley; Bicester v Kintbury; Carterton v Didcot; Highworth v Almondsbury; North Leigh v Hallen; Shortwood v BFC Cheltenham; Swindon Supermarine v Harrow Hill; Wantage v Cirencester Academy.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington Terriers v Newcastle Blue Star; Consett v Seaham Red Star; Crook Town v *Chester-le-Street*; Morpeth v Penrith; Shildon v South Shields; Tow Law v West Auckland.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier League: Beckenham v Slade Green; Canterbury v Whitstable Town; Crockenhill v Cray; Erith v Sheppey; Hythe v Greenwich; Thamesmead v Faversham; Tunbridge Wells v Lordswood.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bridlington v Keynsham; Dfid Down v Yeovil TR; Taunton v Bridport; Thatcham v Bishop Sutton; Westbury v Bristol Manor Farm.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division north: Brache Sparta v Hoddesdon; Brimsdown v Barkingside; Brook House v Beaconsfield Sycob; Buckingham Athletic v Toddington; Haringay v Royston; New Bradwell St Peter v St Margaretsbury; Ruislip Manor v Milton Keynes; *Somerset Ambury v Islington St Mary's.*

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Bournemouth v Brentford (11.0); Brighton v Barnet (11.0); Bristol Rovers v Swanton (11.0); Cambridge Utd v Wycombe (11.0); Gillingham v Portsmouth (11.0); Leyton Orient v Southend (11.0); Oxford Utd v Luton (11.0); Reading v Colchester (11.0).

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Challenge Cup: Bolehall S v Studley BKL.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Cove v Brora; Deveronvale v Fort William; Elgin v Rothes; Forres Mechanics v Peterhead; Fraserburgh v Clachnacuddin; Keith v Huntly; Nairn County v Lossiemouth (12.0); Wick Academy v Buckie Thistle.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: AFC Wallingford v Cobham; Ash v Feltham; Chipstead v Bedfont; Cranleigh v Sandhurst; Horley Whitney v Chessington and Hook; Netherne v Walton Casuals; Raynes Park Vale v Westfield; Viking Sports v Cove.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Brierley Hill T v Kington Town; Bustleholme v Stafford T; Dudley Town v Cradley Town; Ludlow T v Bandon; Malvern T v Ettingshall; Smethwick Rangers v Darlaston; Tiviciale v Lawson Mordon Star; Walsall Wood v Westfields; Wolverhampton C v Tipton Town; Wolverhampton v Gornal A.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: BAT v Downton; Christchurch v Portsmouth; East Cowes v Gosport; Hamble Club v Bournemouth; Lymington and New Milton v *Whitchurch; Money Fields v Wimborne.*

UNISPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne v N Spencer; Buckingham v Yaxley; Cogenhoe v Kempston; Holbeach v S and L Corby; St Neots v Long Buckby.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Broadbridge Heath v Langney Sports; Eastbourne v East Preston; Horsham YMCA v Hassocks; Pagham v Shoreham; Ringmer v Chichester.

FA CUP: Preliminary round: Abingdon Town v Maidenhead; Arlesey Town v Barking; Ashford v Erith and Belvedere; Ashford v Margate; Ashington v Horden CW; Ashton United v Willington; Atherton Collieries v Armthorpe Welfare; Badewell v Calne; Bacup v *Blackpool; Bashley v Ramsgate*; Bideford v Barnstaple; Boston Town v Blackstone; Bowers v Wootton Blue Cross; Bradford Park Avenue v Easington Colliery; Bridgnorth v Borrowash.; Bridgwater v Welton; Burgess Hill v Thame Utd; Burnham Ramblers v Soham; Bury Town v Tilbury; Canvey Island v Stansted; Chatham v Horsham; Chelmsford v Fakenham; Cirencester Town v Chippenham; Corby v Leek CSOB; Cowes Sports v Dorking, Deal v Hillingdon Borough; Desborough v Cheshunt; Eastbourne Town v Herne Bay; Egham v Fisher; Elmore v Yate; *Eynesbury v Southall; Falmouth T v Devizes*; Fareham v Croydon; Farnham v Hailsham; Felixstowe P and T v Ford Sports Daventry; Flixton v Northallerton; Folkestone Invicta v Tonbridge Angels; Ford Utd v Welling-borough; Godalming and Guildford v Banstead; Guisborough v Rossington Main; Halesowen H v Stourport S; Halstead v Blackwell Heath; Harpenden v Burnham; Harrogate Town v Burscough; Hinckley Utd v Rushall O; Hornchurch v London Colney; Kingsbury v Grays; Leyton Pennant v Wembley; Littlehampton v Fleet T; Lye Town v Racing Club Warwick; Marlow v Hemel Hempstead; Marske v Billingham; Matlock Town v Redditch; Minehead v Frome; *Molesey v Oxford City*; Newport AFC v Weston-super-Mare; Oldham v Warrington; Paulton R v Bemerton Heath Harlequins; Portfield v Eastleigh; Potters Bar Town v Wealdstone; Potton v Baldock; Ramsbottom *v Maine Road; Rossendale v Brigg Town*; Sandwell v Blakenall; Sheffield v Atherton; Shepshed D v Barwell; Shotton Comrades v Jarrow Roofing Boldon CA; Stafford v Boldmere St M; Stockton v Gresley; Stotfold v Sudbury Town; Stowmarket v Gorleston; Sutton Coldfield Town v VS Rugby; Tadcaster v Ossett Town; Thackley v Hebburn; Torrington v Melksham; Trafford v Peterlee Newtown; Tring v Waltham Abbey; Walwyn Garden v East Thurrock; Wisbech Town v Bedford T; Witney v Northwood; Woldingham v Cumberley Town; Yorkshire *Amateur v Albion.*

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Chasetown v Pershore T; Pelsall V v Rocester; Wednesfield v Stapenhill; W Mid Police v Stratford T; Willenhall v Knypersley V.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Denaby v North Ferriby; Eccleshill v Pickering; Garforth v Arnold Town; Ossett Albion v Glasshoughton Welfare; Pontefract Cols v Buxton; Selby v Hallam; Staveley MW v Maltby MW.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Clitheroe v Newcastle Town; Glossop North End v Cheadle; Mossley v Bootle; Prescot Cables v Ridsgrove; Salford v Northwich Town; Skelmersdale v Workington; Vauxhall GM v Holker Old Boys.

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE: Under-19: Barnsley v Coventry (11.30); Blackburn v Ipswich (11.0); Bolton v Millwall; Crewe v Arsenal (2.0); Fulham v Leicester (11.0); Leeds v Chelsea (11.0); Middlesbrough v Crystal Palace (11.0); Newcastle v Charlton (11.0); Peterborough v Everton (11.0); Queens Park Rangers v Sheffield Wednesday (11.0); Southampton v Nottingham Forest (11.0); Sunderland v Bristol City (11.0); Tottenham v Liverpool (11.0); Watford v Manchester City; West Ham v Manchester Utd (at Chadwell Heath, 11.45); Wimbledon v Derby (11.0).

Tomorrow

Nationwide League
First division
Oxford Utd v Portsmouth (1.0) .....

LEAGUE OF WALES: Rhyl v Cwmbran (2.30).

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Cork v Derry (2.0); UCD v Shelbourne (3.15).

FA CUP: Preliminary round: Dartford v Reading Town; St Leonards v Wick.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Bradford v Arsenal (2.0); Everton v Croydon (2.0); Millwall v Liverpool (2.0); Southampton v Ilkeston (2.0); Tranmere v Doncaster (2.0).

COVERAGE THIS WEEKEND

Television

Today: BBC1: Football Focus, from 12.25pm. **ITV:** On the Ball, from 1pm. The Big Match, from 10.15pm. **Channel 5:** Lithuania v Scotland, from 2.30pm. **Sky Sports 1:** Sweden v England build-up, from 11am. **Sky Sports 2:** Soccer AM, from 8am. Sweden v England, from 4.30pm. **Eurosport:** European championships coverage, from 9am. **Tomorrow: Sky Sports 2:** Soccer Xtra, from 8am. Oxford United v Portsmouth (live), from 12pm.

Radio

Today: Radio 5 Live: Sport on 5 (includes live commentary on European championship matches), from 1pm. **Talk Radio:** Live Nationwide League commentary, from 3pm. **Tomorrow: Radio 5 Live:** *Live commentary on Oxford United* v Portsmouth, from 1pm.

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland	5	4	1	0	13	2	13
Wolves	5	4	1	0	9	2	13
Bury	5	3	2	0	5	0	11
West Brom	5	3	1	1	12	3	10
Birmingham	5	3	1	1	8	3	10
Norwich	4	3	0	1	8	5	9
Watford	5	3	0	2	8	8	9
Grimsby	5	2	2	1	6	3	8
Sheff Utd	5	2	1	2	8	10	7
Huddersfld	5	2	1	2	7	7	7
Bolton	5	1	3	1	8	6	6
Portsmth	5	1	3	1	6	5	6
Crewe	5	2	0	3	7	8	6
Stockport	5	1	3	1	6	7	6
Barnsley	5	1	3	1	5	6	6
Ipswich	5	1	3	1	3	2	6
C Palace	4	1	2	1	6	6	5
Bradford	5	1	2	2	5	8	5
Bristol City	5	0	3	2	6	10	3
Swindon	5	0	2	3	3	8	2
QPR	5	0	2	3	3	9	2
Oxford Utd	5	0	2	3	2	7	2
Tranmere	4	0	2	2	2	9	2
Port Vale	5	0	1	4	2	11	1

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stoke	5	5	0	0	12	4	15
Bournemth	5	3	2	0	8	2	11
Fulham	5	3	2	0	6	1	11
Preston	5	3	1	1	13	6	10
Luton	5	3	1	1	7	5	10
Walsall	5	3	1	1	7	5	10
Bristol R	5	2	2	1	9	6	8
Man City	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Notts Co	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Wrexham	5	2	2	1	6	5	8
York	5	2	2	1	5	4	8
Millwall	5	2	1	2	5	7	7
Gillingham	5	2	1	2	4	4	7
Colchester	5	2	1	2	5	6	7
Burnley	5	2	0	3	5	7	6
Chestrfld	5	2	0	3	4	7	6
Blackpool	5	2	0	3	4	7	6
Lincoln	5	1	2	2	5	6	5
Oldham	5	1	2	2	6	9	5
Swansea	5	1	2	2	5	8	5
Cardiff	5	1	1	3	5	8	4
Hull	5	1	1	3	5	8	4
Rochdale	5	1	1	3	3	6	4
Scarboro	5	1	0	4	7	8	3
Shrwsbury	5	1	0	4	3	10	3

THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rotherham	5	4	1	0	10	2	13
Brentford	5	4	0	1	10	2	12
Plymouth	5	4	0	1	7	3	12
Halifax	5	3	1	1	7	3	10
Hartlepool	5	3	1	1	7	5	10
Mansfield	5	3	1	1	6	5	10
Scunthrpe	5	3	0	2	8	7	9
Cambs Utd	5	3	0	2	7	5	9
Darlington	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Peterboro	5	2	1	2	8	6	7
Brighton	5	2	1	2	6	6	7
Southend	5	2	1	2	5	7	7
Torquay	5	2	1	2	4	4	7
Carlisle	5	2	0	3	5	6	6
Barnet	5	2	0	3	4	7	6
Exeter	5	2	0	3	4	7	6
Chester	5	1	2	2	5	9	5
L Orient	5	1	2	2	5	8	5
Swansea	5	1	1	3	5	8	4
Cardiff	5	1	1	3	5	8	4
Hull	5	1	1	3	5	8	4
Rochdale	5	1	1	3	3	6	4
Scarboro	5	1	0	4	7	8	3
Shrwsbury	5	1	0	4	3	10	3

SCOTLAND

Premier League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	4	3	0	1	10	1	9
Celtic	4	2	1	1	10	5	7
Kilmarnock	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Aberdeen	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Motherwell	4	2	1	1	3	2	7
Hearts	4	2	1	1	4	4	7
Dundee	4	1	1	2	3	6	5
St Johnstn	4	1	1	2	1	5	4
Dundee Utd	4	0	1	3	1	5	1
Dundee	4	0	1	3	1	6	1

First division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Falkirk	4	3	1	0	4	1	10
Hamilton	4	2	2	0	5	2	8
Hibernian	4	2	1	1	7	5	7
St Mirren	4	2	1	1	3	2	7
Clydebank	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
Airdrie	4	1	2	1	3	2	5
Ayr	4	1	1	2	3	5	4
Raith	4	1	1	2	2	5	4
Stranraer	4	1	0	3	2	5	3
G Morton	4	0	1	3	3	6	1

Second division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inverness CT	4	3	1	0	9	3	10
Clyde	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
Partick	4	2	1	1	5	4	7
Alloa	4	1	2	1	4	5	5
Livingston	4	1	2	1	11	4	5
East Fife	4	1	2	1	4	5	5
Forfar	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
Arbroath	4	1	1	2	4	7	4
Stirling	4	1	1	2	2	10	4
Queen Of S	4	0	2	2	5	5	2

Third division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ross Co	4	4	0	0	14	1	12
Cowdnbth	4	3	0	1	8	5	9
Brechin	4	2	2	0	7	3	8
Dumbarton	4	2	1	1	3	2	7
Stenhsmuir	4	2	0	2	4	3	6
Berwick	4	1	2	1	3	3	5
Queen's Pk	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
Albion	4	1	0	3	3	13	3
East Stirlng	4	0	1	3	2	5	1
Montrose	4	0	1	3	3	11	1

CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rushden	6	6	0	0	20	2	18
Stevenage	6	4	2	0	9	4	14
Havering	6	3	2	1	10	4	11
Cheltenham	6	3	2	1	12	7	11
Southport	6	3	2	1	10	8	11
Hednesford	6	3	2	1	8	6	11
Kingstonian	6	3	2	1	9	8	11
Yeovil	6	3	1	2	10	9	10
Dover	6	3	1	2	7	7	10
Morecambe	6	3	1	2	10	15	10
Leek	6	3	0	3	13	5	9
Kidderminstr	6	3	0	3	12	9	9
Hereford	6	2	2	2	8	9	8
Northwich	6	2	2	2	4	6	8
Welling	6	1	4	1	5	7	7
Doncaster	6	1	2	3	5	7	5
Heyes	6	1	2	3	7	13	5
Telford	6	0	3	3	3	9	3
Farnborough	6	0	3	3	4	11	3
Forest Green	6	0	2	4	5	10	2
Barrow	6	0	2	4	6	15	2
Woking	6	0	1	5	7	14	1

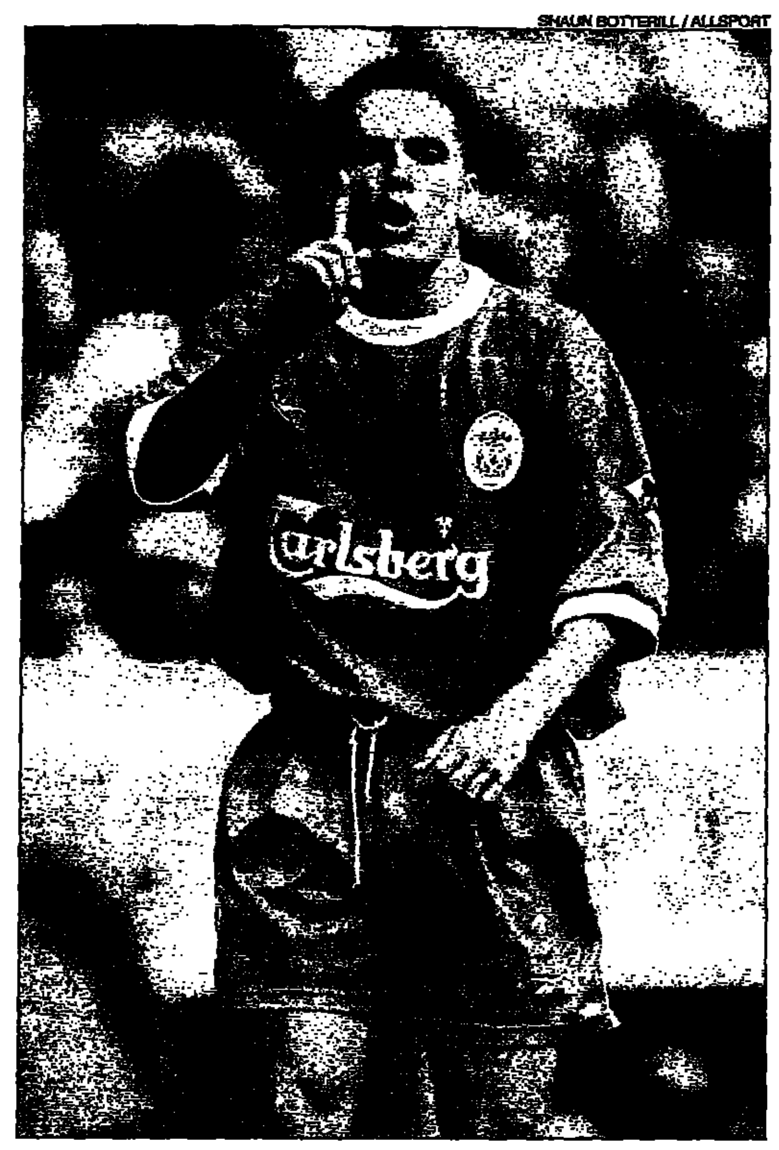
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Only 3 days to go before the kick-off

The £100,000 Fantasy League proper is about to begin, so sign up your team now to give yourself the best chance

FANTASY LEAGUE PRIZES

- **£50,000** to the top manager, plus a trip for two to the European Cup final
- **£10,000** to the runner-up
- **£5,000** for third place
- **£1,000** monthly prizes, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment
- **£500** weekly prizes plus £100 of Puma sports equipment
- **£1,000** youth prize
- **£1,000** August Warm-up prize (see below)
- **£8,000** additional prizes


SHAUN BOTTERILL / ALLSPORT

The big day is drawing nearer: this Tuesday is when *the Fantasy League* begins, and the points for your 11 players start clocking up. So if you haven't picked your team, have a look at the list (right). The in-form team from August's Warm-up is listed below. As you will have heard, *The Times* has teamed up with Fantasy League, the original fantasy football game, to give you the chance to pick your team and gain a share of £100,000. To win the top prize of £50,000 plus a trip to the European Cup final, simply pick 11 players from the list — ONE from each Premiership club.

THE GAME
You have a total budget of £50 million to spend — and remember you can only choose ONE player per club. Your team must be in a 4-4-2 formation, ie:
- one goalkeeper
- two full backs
- two centre backs
- *four midfielders*
- and two forwards

You can also have a team chosen at random. Simply tick the Lucky Dip box on the entry form.

THE SCORING
The system is easy:
A goal scored: **3 points**
An assist (last pass to a scorer): **2 points**
Goalkeeper or defender's appearance (for 45 minutes or more): **1 point**
Goalkeeper or defender clean sheet (including appearance point): **3 points**
Goal conceded (applicable only to goalkeepers or defenders on the field): ***minus 1 point.***

ENTERING
You can enter by post or telephone. Read the instructions below carefully then either call
0640 67 88 99
(+44 870 901 4209 outside the UK) or else post the coupon below today with your entry fee. You can *enter as many teams as you wish,* but each team must have a different name. The proper Fantasy League game does not kick off until next Tuesday, September 8. Warm-up points are now redundant.

SUPER LEAGUES
If you and some friends or colleagues want to get together and form a league, this is great fun for an office, school, pub or sports club. A minimum of five teams can form a league, and the chairman must send in the entry forms together. All teams entered into a Super League will automatically be entered into the main Fantasy League. You will be posted a detailed monthly report showing how you are all doing.

BEST WARM-UP TEAM

This was the best possible team from the Warm-up game that finished last Sunday

Russell Hoult (DER)	6
Gary Charles (AST)	9
Andy Impey (WES)	9
Martin Keown (ARS)	8
Peter Atherton (SHE)	6
Steve Stone (NOT)	8
Muzzy Izzet (LEI)	5
Gustavo Poyet (CHE)	5
Michael Hughes (WIM)	5
Michael Owen (LIV)	14
Clive Mendonca (CHA)	11
Cost: £49.0m	**Points:** 86

THE START
Remember: you can enter Fantasy League at any time from now until noon on Tuesday, September 8 to qualify for the start of the main game, and the Youth League for entrants under 18. On Tuesday the real game starts and all points are reset to zero.

TRANSFERS
You will only be allowed to use 12 transfers in the season. From now until noon on Tuesday you can make unlimited transfers to strengthen your team. Any transfers made during this period will not affect your allowance of 12 transfers for the season. All transfers received by noon on September 8 will become effective for the start of the main Fantasy League competition which kicks off that evening.

Transfers received after noon on September 8 will be deducted from your allowance of 12 transfers for the season.

To make your transfers, call the 24-hour transfer hotline below and use your identification number (PIN).

Transfer *Line:* **0640 62 51 03** (ex-UK +44 870 901 4293).

The line closes at noon on September 8 for unlimited transfers. 0640 calls cost 60p/min. Ex-UK calls charged at national rates.

For terms and conditions send a SAE to: Fantasy League, Competitions Dept, Level 4, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9DB.

Helpline: 01582 702720.

WARM-UP WINNER

Congratulations to **Matthew North** of London SW16, who is the £1,000 winner of the August Warm-up prize with his team Del Boy Pieros. He pipped Grant Tyler of Huntingdon (Grant's Greatest) and Dean Parsons of Caerphilly (Jasons Allsorts) by scoring more goals. All three teams ended on 60 points.

HOW TO ENTER YOUR FANTASY LEAGUE TEAM

Select a team of 11 Premiership players from those listed right. The total value of *your team must not exceed £50m and you cannot choose more than one player* from the same Premiership club. Your team must be in a 4-4-2 formation with: one goalkeeper; two full-backs; two centre-backs; four midfielders; and two forwards.

TO ENTER BY POST Name your team on the entry form, left, in no more than 16 characters. Enter the correct three-digit player codes from the list, right, followed by the players' names. Enter the first three characters of each player's team under the heading CLUB, ie, LEE for Leeds. Also enter the value of each player shown on the *list right. Add up the values of the 11 players in your team and make sure the total* does not exceed £50m. Send your entry to the address shown, with a cheque/PO for £2.50 (£10 sterling outside UK or RoI) or your credit-card details. You will get *confirmation of your team and your personal identity number (PIN) on receipt of your* entry form. Readers under 18 should seek parental permission before entering. They must state their date of birth and indicate if they wish to enter our Youth League.

LUCKY DIP If you would like us to select a team at random for you, please tick the Lucky Dip box on the entry form. Postal entries only.

BLOOMBERG CITY LEAGUE Open to players with access to a Bloomberg terminal.

TO ENTER BY PHONE Call **0640 67 88 99** (+44 870 901 4209 outside the UK) *using a touch-tone (DTMF) phone and when prompted tap in your 11 three-digit* player codes. You will be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters). You will then be given a 10-digit PIN, make sure you write this down and keep it safe to be able to check your team's progress and make transfers. Calls last about seven minutes. 0640 calls are 60p per minute. Calls from outside the UK are charged at national rates. Calls from payphones cost approximately double.

TO FORM A SUPER LEAGUE You need at least five teams to form a Super League. The chairman must complete the form below and submit it with a valid fantasy league entry form for each team in the Super League, enclosing an entry fee of £5 per team (£10 sterling outside the UK or RoI) or credit-card details. Super League entries cannot be made by phone. *The chairman will receive a* monthly report on the league's progress

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Promoter: Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XY

THE TIMES MAIN FANTASY LEAGUE ENTRY FORM

Submit your entry by first post on Tuesday, September 8 to score maximum points

FANTASY TEAM NAME (up to 16 characters)

LUCKY DIP If you wish to have your team selected by us at random, tick box ☐

CODE	NAME	CLUB (FIRST 3 LETTERS)	VALUE
	GOALKEEPER NAME		£ m
	FULL-BACK NAME		£ m
	FULL-BACK NAME		£ m
	CENTRE-BACK NAME		£ m
	CENTRE-BACK NAME		£ m
	MIDFIELDER NAME		£ m
	MIDFIELDER NAME		£ m
	MIDFIELDER NAME		£ m
	MIDFIELDER NAME		£ m
	FORWARD NAME		£ m
	FORWARD NAME		£ m

MAXIMUM OF ONE PLAYER PER PREMIERSHIP TEAM — **TOTAL VALUE (MAX £50m)** £

I also wish to enter the **Youth League** (please tick) ☐
I was under 18 on August 15, 1998. **Date of birth** ☐☐ ☐☐ ☐☐
I wish to enter the ***Bloomberg City* League** (please tick) ☐
Company name ....
First Name .... Surname ....
Address ....
Postcode .... Daytime tel ....
Cheque/PO no (**payable to: Times Newspapers Ltd**) ....
Credit card number: .... Expiry date: ☐☐/☐☐
MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Name on card ....
Supply address of registered cardholder on separate sheet if different from above Signature ....

Send with £2.50 entry fee *(£10 sterling* for entrants outside the UK or RoI) to: The *Times* Fantasy League, Abacus House, Dudley St, Luton, Beds LU1 1ZZ

1. On which days do you usually buy The Times? ☐ Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐ Don't usually buy The Times
2. Which other national daily newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week?
3. Which Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)?
4. Which Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1-2 copies per month)?

If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers Limited, please tick box ☐

THE TIMES SUPER LEAGUE ENTRY FORM

ONLY complete this form if you are entering five or more teams to form a Super League. This form is to be completed by the Super League chairman only

YOUR SUPER LEAGUE TITLE (up to 16 characters)

Total number of managers in your Super League ☐ (minimum five, there is no maximum)

DETAILS OF THE SUPER LEAGUE CHAIRMAN
First Name .... Surname ....
Address ....
Postcode .... Daytime tel ....
I enclose a cheque/PO, made payable to: Times Newspapers Ltd for £ .... £5 for each team in your Super League which includes your £2.50 entry fee for *the main league (£10 sterling for each team for entrants outside the UK or RoI)*
Or please debit £ .... from my credit card number: .... Expiry date: ☐☐/☐☐
MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Name on card ....
Supply address of registered cardholder on separate sheet if different from above Signature ....

TEAMS ENTERED IN A SUPER LEAGUE ARE AUTOMATICALLY ENTERED INTO OUR MAIN LEAGUE

Send this form with a Fantasy League entry form for each *manager in your Super* League, including the chairman, with payment in ONE envelope to: The Times Fantasy League, Abacus House, Dudley St, Luton, Beds LU1 1ZZ

PLAYER LIST WITH FINAL WARM-UP SCORES

Columns show: player code, name, club, Fantasy League points 97-98, Warm-up total, valuation (£m).
** means no longer in the Premiership*

GOALKEEPERS

102	David Seaman	ARS	28	6	3.7
146	Alex Manninger	ARS	15	0	3.4
139	Mark Bosnich	AST	13	6	3.2
140	Michael Oakes	AST	-5	0	2.9
108	John Filan	BLA	10	3	2.8
127	Tim Flowers	BLA	18	3	3.1
104	Sasa Ilic	CHA	-	11	2.3
105	Mike Salmon	CHA	-	0	2.2
137	Dmitri Kharine	CHE	-1	0	2.9
138	Ed De Goey	CHE	24	-1	3.2
107	Steve Ogrizovic	COV	6	0	2.4
117	Magnus Hedman	COV	16	3	2.6
103	Russell Hoult	DER	0	6	2.3
153	Mart Poom	DER	17	0	2.5
112	Paul Gerrard	EVE	-4	0	2.4
118	Thomas Myhre	EVE	7	2	2.6
113	Nigel Martyn	LEE	17	6	3.1
115	Mark Beeney	LEE	-1	0	2.8
123	Kasey Keller	LEI	26	4	2.9
124	Pegguy Arphexad	LEI	1	-2	2.6
122	Brad Friedel	LIV	-1	3	3.3
131	David James	LIV	23	0	3.3
116	Peter Schmeichel	MAN	46	2	4.0
121	Raimond Van Der Gouw	MAN	9	0	3.5
109	Mark Schwarzer	MID	-	1	2.7
110	Ben Roberts	MID	-	0	2.4
141	Shay Given	NEW	11	0	3.0
142	Lionel Perez	NEW	-	0	2.7
119	Dave Beasant	NOT	-	2	2.7
120	Mark Crossley	NOT	-	0	2.6
136	Kevin Pressman	SHE	-11	3	2.5
149	Matt Clarke	SHE	-4	0	2.2
147	Neil Moss	SOU	0	0	2.2
148	Paul Jones	SOU	3	-3	2.4
128	Ian Walker	TOT	-1	-4	2.8
155	Espen Baardsen	TOT	5	3	2.6
129	Craig Forrest	WES	10	0	2.5
130	Shaka Hislop	WES	3	9	2.7
133	Ludek Miklosko	WES	-10	0	2.4
132	Neil Sullivan	WIM	20	3	2.5
135	Paul Heald	WIM	0	0	2.3

FULL BACKS

203	Remi Garde	ARS	5	0	3.5
204	Lee Dixon	ARS	28	4	4.1
205	Nigel Winterburn	ARS	50	6	4.2
260	David Grondin	ARS	-	0	3.4
261	Nelson Vivas	ARS	-	0	3.7
201	Gary Charles	AST	8	9	3.4
209	Alan Wright	AST	19	6	3.7
211	Gary Croft	BLA	11	0	3.2
248	Callum Davidson	BLA	-3	6	3.1
262	Jeff Kenna	BLA	18	6	3.5
221	Chris Powell	CHA	19	9	2.7
240	Danny Mills	CHA	-	9	2.6
241	Mark Bowen	CHA	-	0	2.7
242	Steve Brown	CHA	-	4	2.5
243	Anthony Barness	CHA	-	0	2.5
210	Alberto Ferrer	CHE	-	-1	3.7
212	Graeme Le Saux	CHE	22	-1	4.0
215	Celestine Babayaro	CHE	12	2	3.5
216	Frank Sinclair	CHE	20	2	3.3
218	Steve Clarke*		23	0	3.3
217	Marcus Hall	COV	12	0	2.7
219	Roland Nilsson	COV	25	0	2.9
231	David Burrows	COV	24	3	2.9
245	Robert Jarni*		-	0	3.2
247	Ian Brightwell	COV	-	0	2.8
267	Marc Edworthy	COV	-22	0	2.9
220	Robert Kozluk	DER	-5	0	2.6
222	Gary Rowett*		28	0	3.0
223	Stefan Schnoor	DER	-	6	2.8
287	Steve Elliott	DER	5	0	2.6
249	John O'Kane	EVE	7	0	2.9
256	Tony Thomas	EVE	4	0	2.7
258	Michael Ball	EVE	-1	2	2.8
271	Alex Cleland	EVE	-	2	2.9
272	Terry Phelan	EVE	0	0	2.8
286	Mitch Ward	EVE	3	0	3.0
214	Danny Granville	LEE	6	0	3.5
224	Ian Harte	LEE	10	6	3.4
225	David Robertson	LEE	18	0	3.3
226	Gary Kelly	LEE	28	0	3.9
227	Lee Sharpe	LEE	0	1	3.6
235	Robert Ullathorne	LEI	-1	0	3.0
237	Robbie Savage	LEI	12	4	3.3
238	Steve Guppy	LEI	30	4	3.6
228	Jason McAteer	LIV	31	3	4.2
229	Steve Harkness	LIV	23	0	3.8
230	Rob Jones	LIV	-3	0	3.6
232	Stig Inge Bjornebye	LIV	23	0	3.8
250	Vegard Heggem	LIV	-	3	3.9
236	Denis Irwin	MAN	38	2	4.3
283	John Curtis	MAN	4	0	3.5
284	Philip Neville	MAN	44	0	4.3
285	Gary Neville	MAN	50	0	4.5
252	Curtis Fleming	MID	-	1	3.0
253	Vladimir Kinder	MID	-	0	3.0
254	Craig Harrison	MID	-	1	2.8
255	Dean Gordon	MID	-4	1	3.2
259	Gustavo Lombardi	MID	-	0	2.9
266	Robbie Stockdale	MID	-	3	2.8
244	Nolberto Solano	NEW	-	0	3.3
246	Andy Griffin	NEW	1	0	3.2
273	Steve Watson	NEW	18	0	3.4
274	Warren Barton	NEW	11	1	3.4
276	Laurent Charvet	NEW	9	0	3.3
280	Carl Serrant	NEW	-	-3	3.2
281	Alessandro Pistone	NEW	14	3	3.5
290	Des Lyttle	NOT	-	-1	2.9
291	Alan Rogers	NOT	-	2	3.0
292	Thierry Bonalair	NOT	-	2	3.1
202	Earl Barrett	SHE	2	0	2.8
268	Andy Hinchcliffe	SHE	9	6	3.2
269	Juan Cobian	SHE	-	1	2.8
279	Ian Nolan	SHE	-7	0	2.8
239	John Beresford	SOU	9	0	2.8
257	Lee Todd*		-6	0	2.5
263	Jason Dodd	SOU	17	-6	2.8
251	Clive Wilson	TOT	4	0	3.0
264	Stephen Carr	TOT	5	-1	3.1
265	Paolo Tramezzani	TOT	-	0	3.2
270	Justin Edinburgh	TOT	-7	0	2.9
206	Steve Potts	WES	6	0	3.0
208	Tim Breacker	WES	-2	0	2.9
233	Stan Lazaridis	WES	18	9	3.2
234	Andy Impey	WES	2	9	3.1
275	Duncan Jupp	WIM	1	0	2.8
277	Ben Thatcher	WIM	16	0	2.9
278	Alan Kimble	WIM	16	5	2.9
282	Kenny Cunningham	WIM	20	3	3.0

CENTRE BACKS

305	Steve Bould	ARS	18	3	3.8
307	Tony Adams	ARS	51	5	4.4
322	Martin Keown	ARS	24	8	4.1
337	Gilles Grimandi	ARS	18	0	3.6
347	Matthew Upson	ARS	5	0	3.4
301	Ugo Ehiogu	AST	16	3	3.7
303	Gareth Southgate	AST	16	6	3.6
304	Riccardo Scimeca	AST	0	3	3.3
329	Gareth Barry	AST	-	6	3.1
310	Colin Hendry*		18	0	3.5
353	Sebastien Perez	BLA	-	2	3.3
354	Darren Peacock	BLA	4	6	3.3
355	Stephane Henchoz	BLA	18	6	3.4
308	Richard Rufus	CHA	-	5	2.7
309	Eddie Youds	CHA	-	9	2.6
316	Phil Chapple*		-	0	2.5
318	Stuart Balmer	CHA	-	0	2.5
356	Bernard Lambourde	CHE	-2	0	3.4
365	Marcel Desailly	CHE	-	-1	3.8
366	Michael Duberry	CHE	18	0	3.5
370	Andy Myers	CHE	8	0	3.3
381	Frank Leboeuf	CHE	44	-1	4.2
357	Gary Breen	COV	19	3	3.0
379	Jean-Guy Wallemme	COV	-	3	3.0
384	Paul Williams	COV	-1	0	2.9
387	Richard Shaw	COV	12	3	2.8
388	Liam Daish	COV	0	0	2.8
311	Jacob Laursen	DER	11	4	2.9
312	Igor Stimac	DER	15	3	3.0
313	Rory Delap	DER	12	6	2.7
314	Horacio Angel Carbonari	DER	-	3	3.1
326	Christian Dailly	DER	5	3	3.0
306	Slaven Bilic	EVE	-2	0	3.1
323	David Unsworth	EVE	10	1	3.1
324	Dave Watson	EVE	0	0	2.9
325	Carl Tiler	EVE	15	2	3.0
327	Craig Short	EVE	6	2	2.9
328	Marco Materazzi	EVE	-	2	3.0
330	Lucas Radebe	LEE	15	6	3.5
331	Martin Hiden	LEE	1	6	3.4
380	David Wetherall	LEE	26	0	3.6
398	Robert Molenaar	LEE	14	6	3.4
334	Gerry Taggart	LEI	4	-1	3.2
335	Pontus Kaamark	LEI	34	0	3.3
336	Steve Walsh	LEI	30	2	3.3
338	Matt Elliott	LEI	53	3	3.9
389	Spencer Prior	LEI	24	1	3.1
302	Steve Staunton	LIV	17	5	4.1
320	Phil Babb	LIV	12	3	3.7
333	Mark Wright*		2	0	3.5
375	Dominic Matteo	LIV	16	0	3.6
399	Bjorn Tore Kvarme	LIV	20	0	3.5
321	Henning Berg	MAN	30	3	3.9
368	David May	MAN	9	0	3.9
382	Jaap Stam	MAN	-	0	4.5
383	Ronny Johnsen	MAN	33	2	4.1
339	Gary Pallister	MID	39	0	3.2
343	Gianluca Festa	MID	-	-2	3.1
344	Steve Vickers	MID	-	0	3.0
340	Stuart Pearce	NEW	12	0	3.2
341	Steve Howey	NEW	9	0	3.3
342	Nicos Dabizas	NEW	5	1	3.4
361	Philippe Albert	NEW	17	-3	3.5
350	Colin Cooper	NOT	-	0	3.2
351	Steve Chettle	NOT	-	2	3.0
352	Jon Olav Hjelde	NOT	-	1	2.9
358	Peter Atherton	SHE	11	6	2.9
359	Goce Sedloski	SHE	4	0	2.7
360	Des Walker	SHE	-11	3	2.8
362	Dejan Stefanovic*		-2	0	2.7
364	Jon Newsome	SHE	1	0	2.8
317	Ken Monkou	SOU	3	-1	2.7
385	Francis Benali	SOU	6	0	2.7
386	Richard Dryden	SOU	2	-6	2.5
391	Claus Lundekvam	SOU	1	-5	2.6
394	Scott Marshall	SOU	2	0	2.7
395	Scott Hiley	SOU	-	-6	2.5
346	Colin Calderwood	TOT	7	3	3.1
373	John Scales	TOT	-3	0	3.0
378	Sol Campbell	TOT	7	-1	3.3
396	Ramon Vega	TOT	14	0	3.4
315	Julian Dicks	WES	0	0	3.3
319	Ian Pearce	WES	4	6	3.1
363	Richard Hall	WES	0	0	2.9
367	Javier Margas	WES	-	3	3.2
369	Neil Ruddock	WES	-1	9	3.0
393	Rio Ferdinand	WES	0	9	3.2
372	Chris Perry	WIM	23	3	3.1
390	Brian McAllister	WIM	-5	0	2.8
392	Dean Blackwell	WIM	22	3	2.9

MIDFIELDERS

405	Emmanuel Petit	ARS	22	3	4.4
406	Marc Overmars	ARS	44	3	5.6
416	Ray Parlour	ARS	21	0	4.0
420	Patrick Vieira	ARS	16	0	4.1
425	Stephen Hughes	ARS	8	0	3.5
407	Mark Draper	AST	21	0	3.7
409	Simon Grayson	AST	4	0	3.3
410	Alan Thompson	AST	41	3	4.5
411	Fabio Ferraresi	AST	-	0	3.6
413	Lee Hendrie	AST	13	4	3.7
535	Ian Taylor	AST	24	2	3.8
415	Billy McKinlay	BLA	0	0	3.2
417	Jason Wilcox	BLA	20	0	4.0
419	Damien Duff	BLA	20	0	4.2
421	Jimmy Corbett	BLA	-	0	3.3
422	Tim Sherwood	BLA	21	0	4.1
575	Garry Flitcroft	BLA	10	2	3.3
501	Keith Jones	CHA	-	0	3.1
502	Mark Kinsella	CHA	-	0	3.5
504	Matt Holmes	CHA	-	0	3.2
505	Shaun Newton	CHA	-	0	3.3
506	John Robinson	CHA	-	3	3.2
507	Neil Redfearn	CHA	38	3	4.1
401	Mark Nicholls	CHE	11	0	3.3
404	Paul Hughes	CHE	4	0	3.1
429	Jody Morris	CHE	5	0	3.2
430	Roberto Di Matteo	CHE	26	0	4.4
434	Dan Petrescu	CHE	27	0	4.3
435	Eddie Newton	CHE	0	0	3.1
437	Gustavo Poyet	CHE	22	5	4.9
438	Brian Laudrup	CHE	-	0	5.8
439	Dennis Wise	CHE	17	2	3.8
465	Gary McAllister	COV	2	0	3.9
589	Paul Hall	COV	-	0	3.8
590	Paul Telfer	COV	19	0	3.5
591	Noel Whelan	COV	20	2	4.4
592	Trond Egil Soltvedt	COV	11	0	3.4
593	Willie Boland	COV	2	0	3.0
594	George Boateng	COV	3	0	3.3
595	Philippe Clement	COV	-	0	3.5
596	Gavin Strachan	COV	0	0	3.1
440	Darryl Powell	DER	0	0	3.2
442	Stefano Eranio	DER	19	0	3.8
443	Lee Carsley	DER	3	0	3.1
444	Francesco Baiano	DER	52	0	5.2
446	Jonathan Hunt	DER	5	0	3.4
479	Lars Bohinen	DER	14	2	3.6
403	Gareth Farrelly	EVE	5	0	3.2
414	Tony Grant	EVE	5	0	3.1
418	Danny Williamson	EVE	0	0	3.2
447	John Oster	EVE	5	0	3.4
448	Nick Barmby	EVE	22	0	4.8
449	Olivier Dacourt	EVE	-	0	3.6
450	John Collins	EVE	-	0	4.6
570	Don Hutchison	EVE	3	0	4.0
459	Harry Kewell	LEE	21	0	4.4
466	Lee Bowyer	LEE	19	3	3.9
480	Alf Inge Haaland	LEE	21	0	3.6
481	Bruno Ribeiro	LEE	19	0	3.8
482	Gunnar Halle	LEE	8	0	3.3
522	David Hopkin	LEE	7	0	3.7
452	Neil Lennon	LEI	12	0	3.5
454	Garry Parker	LEI	13	0	3.6
460	Muzzy Izzet	LEI	26	5	3.8
565	Theo Zagorakis	LEI	5	2	3.4
412	Jamie Carragher	LIV	0	0	3.3
467	Jamie Redknapp	LIV	15	0	4.2
468	Steve McManaman	LIV	51	2	5.5
469	Patrik Berger	LIV	11	3	4.4
487	Danny Murphy	LIV	4	0	3.7
490	Paul Ince	LIV	36	4	4.5
529	Oyvind Leonhardsen	LIV	26	0	4.3
483	Jesper Blomqvist	MAN	-	0	5.0
484	Nicky Butt	MAN	15	0	4.1
485	Ryan Giggs	MAN	46	0	5.6
486	Paul Scholes	MAN	34	0	5.5
491	Jordi Cruyff	MAN	0	0	3.8
492	David Beckham	MAN	61	5	5.9
509	Roy Keane	MAN	6	0	4.4
510	Neil Maddison	MID	3	0	3.1
511	Andy Townsend	MID	-	0	3.6
512	Robbie Mustoe	MID	-	0	3.4
514	Paul Gascoigne	MID	-	0	4.5
515	Paul Merson	MID	-	4	4.7
516	Alan Moore	MID	-	0	3.5
517	Phil Stamp	MID	-	0	3.4
461	George Georgiadis	NEW	-	0	3.9
462	David Batty	NEW	5	0	3.7
463	Stephen Glass	NEW	-	0	3.5
464	Gary Speed	NEW	28	0	4.3
473	John Barnes	NEW	20	0	3.6
489	Keith Gillespie	NEW	22	0	4.3
493	Garry Brady	NEW	-	0	3.3
494	Des Hamilton	NEW	2	0	3.3
495	Temuri Ketsbaia	NEW	17	0	3.8
496	Robert Lee	NEW	16	2	4.2
497	Dietmar Hamann	NEW	-	0	3.9
518	Nigel Quashie	NOT	-	0	3.8
519	Glyn Hodges	NOT	-	0	3.3
520	Chris Bart-Williams	NOT	-	0	3.6
521	Scott Gemmill	NOT	-	2	3.5
524	Geoff Thomas	NOT	-	5	3.5
525	Andy Johnson	NOT	-	0	3.7
526	Steve Stone	NOT	-	8	4.0
527	Ian Woan	NOT	-	0	3.8
528	Craig Armstrong	NOT	-	0	3.2
530	Andy Gray	NOT	-	0	3.4
537	Niclas Alexandersson	SHE	0	0	3.5
538	Petter Rudi	SHE	2	0	3.6
539	Guy Whittingham	SHE	20	0	3.7
540	Graham Hyde	SHE	5	0	3.1
547	Wim Jonk	SHE	-	2	4.3
548	Jim Magilton	SHE	5	0	3.1
562	Benito Carbone	SHE	39	0	4.7
597	Emerson Thome	SHE	0	0	3.2
500	Stuart Ripley	SOU	26	2	3.9
536	Carlton Palmer	SOU	15	0	3.2
541	David Howells	SOU	0	0	3.2
542	Matthew Le Tissier	SOU	51	3	6.0
543	Wayne Bridge	SOU	-	0	3.0
557	Matthew Oakley	SOU	7	0	3.1
498	David Ginola	TOT	36	2	4.8
503	Ruel Fox	TOT	23	3	4.1
523	Andy Sinton	TOT	10	0	3.4
551	Stephen Clemence	TOT	2	0	3.2
553	Allan Nielsen	TOT	15	0	3.7
554	Jose Dominguez	TOT	8	0	3.5
555	Darren Anderton	TOT	2	0	4.6
564	Nicola Berti	TOT	15	0	3.7
568	Moussa Saib	TOT	5	2	3.6
436	John Moncur	WES	5	0	3.4
561	Eyal Berkovic	WES	45	0	4.8
576	Trevor Sinclair	WES	23	2	5.1
577	Steve Lomas	WES	14	0	3.3
578	Frank Lampard	WES	21	0	3.7
579	Marc Keller	WES	-	0	3.9
471	Mark Kennedy	WIM	2	0	3.8
559	Robbie Earle	WIM	13	3	4.1
560	Andy Roberts	WIM	7	0	3.3
563	Neal Ardley	WIM	10	0	3.4
580	Michael Hughes	WIM	20	5	3.5
586	Carl Hughes	WIM	5	0	3.3
587	Peter Fear	WIM	6	0	3.0

FORWARDS

601	Luis Boa Morte	ARS	0	0	5.4
602	Nicolas Anelka	ARS	30	0	8.0
606	Dennis Bergkamp	ARS	72	0	9.1
623	Christopher Wreh	ARS	11	0	5.8
645	Dwight Yorke	AST	40	0	8.3
646	Julian Joachim	AST	34	6	6.2
652	Stan Collymore	AST	30	2	8.0
647	Chris Sutton	BLA	70	0	8.4
691	Martin Dahlin	BLA	14	0	6.4
693	Kevin Gallacher	BLA	58	3	7.5
698	Kevin Davies	BLA	35	0	7.4
604	Clive Mendonca	CHA	-	11	6.5
605	Mark Bright	CHA	-	0	5.6
607	Steve Jones	CHA	-	0	5.0
608	Andy Hunt	CHA	-	0	5.5
636	Pierluigi Casiraghi	CHE	-	0	7.8
637	Tore Andre Flo	CHE	43	0	7.2
639	Gianluca Vialli	CHE	45	0	6.6
679	Gianfranco Zola	CHE	38	0	7.4
680	Darren Huckerby	COV	50	3	7.2
683	Dion Dublin	COV	74	5	7.9
612	Dean Sturridge	DER	37	0	6.6
625	Deon Burton	DER	17	0	5.3
694	Paulo Wanchope	DER	53	3	6.8
628	Danny Cadamarteri	EVE	16	0	5.3
673	John Spencer	EVE	2	0	6.0
674	Mickael Madar	EVE	22	0	6.2
702	Duncan Ferguson	EVE	47	0	7.5
661	Clyde Wijnhard	LEE	-	2	6.8
662	Jimmy F Hasselbaink	LEE	60	3	8.1
622	Emile Heskey	LEI	46	3	6.8
626	Tony Cottee	LEI	12	6	5.4
657	Ian Marshall	LEI	21	0	5.7
669	Graham Fenton	LEI	11	0	5.2
618	Karl-Heinz Riedle	LIV	20	5	7.7
619	Sean Dundee	LIV	-	0	7.0
620	Robbie Fowler	LIV	37	0	9.4
690	Michael Owen	LIV	80	14	10.5
640	Ole Gunnar Solskjaer	MAN	26	0	8.1
641	Andy Cole	MAN	60	0	8.7
649	Teddy Sheringham	MAN	49	3	7.5
610	Marco Branca	MID	-	0	7.0
611	Hamilton Ricard	MID	-	3	6.6
613	Mikkel Beck	MID	-	3	6.2
615	Alun Armstrong	MID	-	0	6.0
667	Andreas Andersson	NEW	6	3	6.7
668	Stephane Guivarc'h	NEW	-	3	7.7
670	Alan Shearer	NEW	10	2	10.1
630	Pierre Van Hooijdonk	NOT	-	0	7.8
634	Jean-Claude Darcheville	NOT	-	5	6.1
635	Dougie Freedman	NOT	0	0	6.3
663	Francesco Sanetti	SHE	3	0	5.9
664	Andy Booth	SHE	27	2	6.5
666	Paolo Di Canio	SHE	52	3	7.1
638	Mark Hughes	SOU	35	0	6.5
665	David Hirst	SOU	37	0	6.1
703	Egil Ostenstad	SOU	39	3	6.9
704	James Beattie	SOU	0	0	5.2
650	Chris Armstrong	TOT	15	0	7.1
658	Les Ferdinand	TOT	25	3	8.1
687	Steffen Iversen	TOT	0	0	6.4
603	Ian Wright	WES	38	3	7.8
614	John Hartson	WES	67	0	8.2
643	Samassi Abou	WES	23	0	5.6
644	Paul Kitson	WES	12	0	6.3
672	Carl Leaburn	WIM	18	0	5.5
681	Jason Euell	WIM	14	2	5.4
700	Marcus Gayle	WIM	10	2	5.8
701	Efan Ekoku	WIM	14	6	6.0
705	Carl Cort	WIM	16	0	5.3

GOLF

Faldo takes his leave before time

FROM MEL WEBB IN CRANS-SUR-SIERRE

COLIN MONTGOMERIE moved up, Darren Clarke stayed more or less where he was, Lee Westwood advanced stealthily and Nick Faldo went home, wherever that is these days. The big names were hurtling about in all directions in the second round of the Canon European Masters yesterday.

All manner of subplots abound in the rarefied air of this beautiful, squeaky-clean, designer-clad town that for one week a year shrugs off its raiment as a skiing resort in mufti and becomes the hub of European professional golf. Some of them were resolved yesterday, others may not be settled until tomorrow evening.

The one involving most personnel, the contest for leadership of the European Tour order of merit, is one of those annual rituals that sometimes involves two players, occasionally encompasses three and always includes Montgomerie. Compared with Westwood and Clarke, the others in this year's hoop-la, he looked destined only to be on the fringe of things, such had been the decline in his game in recent weeks. Yesterday he went some way towards putting himself back in contention.

He had labelled his golf "unacceptable" on Thursday, when he had a 70, but was a good deal happier with his 66 of yesterday. It lifted him from nowhere to somewhere, only four strokes adrift of Clarke, Sven Struver, whose 63 was the lowest of the tournament, and Christophe Bovet, a little-known Swiss. They are a shot behind Patrik Sjoland, the leader, who had a 66 to finish on 131, 11 under par.

This time Montgomerie liked the start and the finish but was none too keen on the middle. But then, he would have, for he played the first three holes and the last three in six under par and the other 12 in one over. And he did half of it when afflicted by a limp, the result of planting his right foot in a hole on the 9th and turning his ankle.

As if that were not enough, he also has a stiff neck. Brave soldier that he is, he played through the pain and was moved to be happy about something, which makes a change compared with his recent blue mood. "I'm going in the right direction," he said. "It's nice to score under par for a change." Exit left, hobbling but defiant and wearing a pained smile.

Clarke was grinning, too, but that is something in which he has indulged a good deal more often than Montgomerie in the immediate past. His 68 kept him six strokes ahead of Westwood, leader of the money list, who also had a 68. Clarke trails in second place by £42,600 and will be a big, jolly Ulsterman if he is still six ahead come tomorrow.

Faldo, meanwhile, had nothing whatsoever to be jovial about, so he did not bother to try. He has brought his distressed game temporarily to Europe to try to stack up some early Ryder Cup points for the match next year, but succeeded only in missing his first halfway cut on the European Tour for 4½ years.

He beat his inquisitors to the punch — there is nothing like getting your retaliation in first. "I played lousy," he said with disarming candour after failing by a shot. He said that he had had some good swing thoughts and so he might have done; it was good swing actions that he was short of.

In the midst of so much anguish, he could draw some small consolation from the fact that he had birdied three of the last four holes. Not that it appeared to have done him much good; when your confidence is as low as a viper's belly, it takes more than a handful of birdies to bring the sun out again.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Barry Monks, of Royal Mid-Surrey, plays out of trouble at the 11th on his morning round in the Micklem Cup

Micklem well remembered

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

GERALD MICKLEM would have liked to have been at Sunningdale yesterday. Actually, it is a brave man who says he was not at his beloved golf club in spirit. Can one be sure that the presence of one of the great men of postwar amateur golf in Britain, who brooded over this famous club while he was alive, was not brooding over it again in death on the day of the inaugural staging of the Micklem Cup, a competition named in his memory?

Even ten years after his death, Micklem is revered in these parts. He was an administrator, enthusiast and expert perhaps more even than a player, though he won the English championship in 1947 and 1953, competed in the Walker Cup four times between 1947 and 1955 and was twice non-playing captain.

The Micklem Cup, for competitors of four-handicap and better, was held over the New Course, the more difficult and younger of Sunningdale's two glorious courses. Designed by Harold Colt, who was also secretary and captain of the club, it was opened in 1922.

The Sunningdale committee had the idea of commemorating the 75th anniversary of the opening of the New Course with a 36-hole strokeplay competition in memory of Micklem. "We wanted it to be a celebration of Gerald, who died in 1988," Stewart Zuill, the club secretary, said. "So we decided to make it a competition for people of 35 and over, people who knew him or at least knew of him."

Gary Wolstenholme knew Micklem. So did Guy, Gary's father, who used to play with Micklem at Sunningdale while an amateur. Thus Micklem would have pleased that Gary Wolstenholme, with two rounds of 68, triumphed by two strokes over Mark Wharton, from the John O'Gaunt club, who had led after 18 holes.

Sunningdale is one of three outstanding golf clubs set on sandy subsoil within a few miles on the borders of Surrey and Berkshire. In a soon-to-be-published book about the most famous golf clubs of Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland, it is said that members of The Berkshire Golf Club are all gentlemen and love to play golf; all the Sunningdale members love to play golf but not all are gentlemen; and all the Swinley Forest members are gentlemen but don't give a fig whether they play golf or not.

Micklem would have understood and appreciated the fine points made in those remarks. Sunningdale's second and last president loved golf and all its rhythms.

He would have felt at home at his club yesterday. He would have roamed the course restlessly, just as he used to, probably deploring the slowness of modern golfers before retiring to his favourite position in the bay window of the members' bar of the Edwardian clubhouse.

He would certainly have made some criticisms of the day, but they would have come from his affection for the game. He would, above all, have appreciated what he had seen.

ROWING

Britain's finest preparing to make waves

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL IN COLOGNE

WHEN the Great Britain world championships team returned from France last year with an unprecedented eight medals, a senior official said: "That will be a hard act to follow." The 20-boat team for the championships this year, which start here tomorrow, seems ready to take up that challenge after impressive performances in the three World Cup regattas and successful training camps in Austria, France and Italy.

The best news is the sparkling form of the men's coxless four, World Cup and world championship winners in 1997 but with a chapter of accidents since then. Steve Redgrave was told he was diabetic in October, Matthew Pinsent fractured a rib in the spring and Tim Foster put his hand through a window at a party in Oxford and was replaced for the first World Cup regatta in Munich, where the crew finished fourth. They did not race in the second World Cup race, in Belgium.

But the Britons ruled supreme at Henley and Lucerne, beating all their main rivals, except the French.

The two men's eights could be in the frame, particularly the lightweights, a combination of Nottingham County and Oxford Brookes, coached by Lennie Robertson. The crew have won at all three World Cup regattas and John Deakin, their coxswain, is a close-finish specialist. The heavyweights were second in the World Cup rankings behind Romania but third in Lucerne, where Germany revealed their top crew.

It has been the Britain women who have made headlines this year under their coach, Mike Spracklen. His lead boat is the coxless pair of Dot Blackie and Cath Bishop, overall winners of the World Cup this year, although they were beaten into fourth place in the last round in Lucerne by Canada, Australia and Denmark.

Miriam Batten and Gillian Lindsay, world double sculls silver medal-winners last year, are short of racing practice because of Lindsay's recurring back problems through the summer. In their one race, in Belgium, they finished second behind the World Cup champions, Holland. The first aim of the women's eight, bronze medal-winners last year, will be to reach the final in a tough ten-boat entry, in which Romania look the class of an equal field.

Two lightweight women's crews, Tracey Langlands and Jane Hall in the double sculls and Caroline Hobson and Juliet Machan in the coxless pair, finished second in the World Cup rankings but Denmark, Germany, Canada and Poland have beaten them this year. The new coxless pair raced only in Lucerne and won with ease.



Pinsent: recovered

Britain's three single scullers, Greg Searle, the lightweight, Peter Haining, and Guin Batten have fields of 25, 28 and 18 respectively to face. Searle, the 1997 world bronze medal-winner, has probably the toughest field ever, including five former world champions and Xeno Müller, the Swiss Olympic champion. Haining, world champion from 1993 to 1995, was poor in 1997 but has shown his true form at training camp. Batten, an Olympic and world finalist in 1996 and 1997, lies fifth in the World Cup this year.

BASEBALL

Old foes prepare to strike out for final accolade

WHILE the race to break home-run records continues across the pond, the British season reaches its climax this weekend with the final of the Coors Baseball League Series (Nick Szczepanik writes).

London Warriors and Menwith Hill Patriots face each other in a best-of-three series at Pavilion Field, a purpose-built facility located in Waterhall Valley, Brighton.

London, the champions, are a cosmopolitan team who include players from eight different countries and have three members of the Great Britain squad, including Alan Bloomfield, voted the premier division's most valuable player for his performances last season.

Menwith Hill, who beat London in the 1995 and 1996 finals, represent an American military base in Yorkshire and draw their players exclusively from its personnel. They had an enviable 19-1 regular-season record in the premier division north, but found the going tougher against Hounslow and Brighton in the play-offs.

"That will have focused them," Alan Smith, the Warriors' chairman and pitcher, said, acknowledging that Menwith Hill will also want revenge for defeat by London in the semi-finals last year.

"I think they are going to be two or three very good games, although we hope to win in two. Both teams have strong batters; it will all come down to defense." The curtain-raiser, at 10am today, will be a North versus South junior all-star game.

SCHEDULE: Game one, today 2pm; game two, tomorrow 11am; game three (if required) to follow

BASKETBALL

Cadle puts himself in picture

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

KEVIN CADLE embarks on a new career in front of the cameras tonight. Britain's most successful basketball coach has exchanged that job for the Gary Lineker-style task of fronting the regular Saturday night basketball slot on Sky Sports 1. With his American expertise and charm, he can be guaranteed to improve the presentation.

Perversely, perhaps, of all the people he expects to upset with his comments over the coming months, Cadle will start with London Towers, his last club, who, last season for the first time in Cadle's four years in charge, failed to capture a trophy. With him in the commentary box rather than pacing anxiously along the sidelines, Towers staged the Sainsbury's Tournament at Wembley, featuring Maccabi Tel Aviv, Porto and Partisan Belgrade. Cadle will miss the locker-room not one bit.

It was for a combination of reasons that he left the club. The merger with Crystal Palace did not help. "I didn't find out until June 7 what was going on. Many of the top jobs had gone by then. But the new deal with the club was not up to financial scratch for me." The change of owners also helped to sway him. Gone were the Marshalls, Barrie, the music promoter, and his wife, Jenny, who hired him in the first place. "I felt I had no feelings or owed anything to the new group of people coming in."

When the offer from Sky came in he was in the mood to accept, primarily because he had burnt himself out as a coach. "For the past five years I've been wanting a break from coaching," he said. "Ever since I coached the 1992 Olympic team [Great Britain], when I had all that hassle from the administration it's worn on me. I was just existing on my reserves. It had got to the point where the agony of defeat lasted much longer than the thrill of victory."

Consequently, the honours that piled up for Cadle over a 12-year period started to mean far less. Only the fiercely competitive fixtures against London's great rivals, the Leopards, meant anything.

"Those games would really get me pumped up to do my thing. No other challenge excited me. Now I'll be able to go home and go to sleep. The other guy (his successor, Lino Frattin, an Italian) has to be the one who stays up all night. I needed a rest from having my emotions depending on somebody else's actions."

SAILING

Highland Fling leaves it late to meet expectations

EDDIE WARDEN-OWEN joked yesterday that his contract with Irvine Laidlaw as tactician on board the Swan 60, *Highland Fling*, at the Rolex Swan World Cup here in Porto Cervo requires him to be leading by the windward mark in every race (Edward Gorman writes). As scratch boat in the 82-strong field, Laidlaw would expect nothing less.

Yesterday, Warden-Owen left it to the last minute as *Fling* finally eased ahead of Hans Eekhof's Swan 60, *Innovision 5*, with Russell Coutts at the wheel, just minutes before the two-hour windward stretch came to an end.

Fling, which won this event in 1994, did not have the best of starts in the fourth race of the series, which offered classic conditions for once, under a cloudless sky.

Once ahead, *Fling* managed to hold her own against the chasing 60s and save her time on handicap to post her first win from *Ngoni* and *Innovision*.

With the former leader, *Eurosia*, skippered by Tommaso Chieffi, posting only eighteenth place, the overall leader going into the last race today is *Innovision*, with *Eurosia* second and Theo Kinsbergen's *Defiance* third.

☐ Ben Ainslie goes into the last day of a weather-affected Laser European championships on Lake Neusidl in Austria today with a 13-point lead over Adonis Bourgouris, of Greece, and Frederic Guilmin, of France, a further eight points adrift in third place. With only six races sailed to date, there may be up to three more races today.

FOR THE RECORD

AUSTRALIAN RULES

QUALIFYING FINAL: North Melbourne 11.16 (82) beat Essendon 8.12 (60)

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Anzona 1 Pittsburgh 0; Milwaukee 7 Colorado 3

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Minnesota 5 Tampa Bay 4 (12inns), Cleveland 2 Detroit 1, Toronto 4 Boston 3 (11inns)

BOWLS

WORTHING: Open tournament: Pairs: Quarter-finals: K Thatcher and A Mayne bt J Newman and D Ford 24-10; M Dare and I Snowdon bt S Robinson and C Hayward 19-15; P Poulson and J Marshall bt E Sloddard and A Hurst 22-21; A Knapp and J Hollman bt G Arnold and J Godfrey 18-15.

BLACKPOOL: Talbot Crown Green Trophy: Sixth round: T Johnstone (Warrington) bt R Nicholson (Halifax) 21-14, B Duncan (Preston) bt R Hitchen (Halifax) 21-18, N Fletcher (Blackpool) bt V Lee (Blackpool) 21-11, K Strutt (Diggle) bt J Shackleby (Ormskirk) 21-9; D Reeves (Purdsey) bt R Mosham (Barrow) 21-10, C Baker (Birmingham) bt D Ince (Blackpool) 21-14, H Hornby (St Michaels) bt A James (Birmingham) 21-19, A Thomson (Barrow) bt M Hogarth (Lytham) 21-5.

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Third day of four: Chesterfield: Nottinghamshire 74 (T M Smith 4-34, AP Woolley 4-13) 207-2 (U Afzaal 116 not out, N A Gee 62 not out): Derbyshire 376-6 dec (S Ahmed 178 not out, A P Woollor 51) Final day of three: Worcester: Worcestershire 313 and 208; Hampshire 173 and 218 (J S Laney 60, J De La Pena 4-69) Worcestershire won by 130 runs Oxsted CC: Durham 158 (C G Greenidge 4-36) and 228 (P L Carlin 78, C J Hewson 62, R M Amin 5-69, G J Batty 4-33, Surrey 249 (GA Knott 70, JD Radcliffe 52, NC Phillips 5-54) and 128-7 (GA Knott 50no) Result match drawn Second day of three: New Road: Worcestershire 313 and 208 (M J Turner 58, P R Whitaker 6-73), Hampshire 173 (G D Attenborough 50, J De La Pena 6-52) and 20-1.

EQUESTRIANISM

BURGHLEY: Pedigree Chum Horse Trials (results after dressage): 1, Archie Brown (P Muir, GB) 45.6, 2, Marlkori (A Nicholson, NZ) 47.4; 3, The Moose (I Stark, GB) 47.8, 4, Supreme Rock (P Furmell, GB) 48.4; 5, Aspyring (E Tait, NZ) 48.8, 6, Stunning (M Todd, NZ) 49.2.

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying matches: Denmark 2 Belarus 0; Wales 1 Italy 2, Turkey 2 N Ireland 0; Sweden 0 England 2, Austria 0 Israel 1

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Norwich D Chelsea 1

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Manchester City 4 Barnsley 0.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Shelmersdale 5 Bootle 1

GOLF

CRANS-SUR-SIERRE: Canon European Masters: First-round scores (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 131: P Sjoland (Swe) 65, 66, 132: D Clarke 64, 68; S Struver (Ger) 69, 63; C Bovet (Switz) 68, 64, 133: J Van de Velde (Fr) 67, 66, C Rocca (It) 67, 66, 134: S Henderson 68, 66, 135: S Torrance 67, 68, 136: P Lonard (Aus) 70, 66, J Rivero (Sp) 68, 68, A Sherborne 67, 69, C Beard Jr 68, 68, S Luna (Sp) 69, 67, C Montgomerie 70, 66, M A Jimenez (Sp) 67, 69, A Cejka (Ger) 70, 66, P Eales 69, 67, 137: M Lanner (Swe) 70, 67, M Roe 67, 70; P Haugsrud (Nor) 66, 71, M Cunning (US) 71, 66, K Tomori (Japan) 69, 68, A Beal 69, 68, R Jacquelin (Fr) 70, 67, F Tamaud (Fr) 71, 66, M Gronberg (Swe) 69, 68, E Romero (Arg) 66, 71, 138: R Karlsson (Swe) 68, 69; G Owen 70, 68; B Dredge 71, 67, G Orr 68, 70; L Westwood 70, 68, P Price 68, 70, 139; R Boxall 70, 69; M Halfberg (Swe) 68, 71, G Evans 70, 69, P Hemmington 70, 69, T Bjorn (Den) 69, 70; R Goosen (SA) 69, 70, H Clark 70, 69, S Scahill (NZ) 71, 68, M Ferry (Fr) 72, 67, A Wall 71, 68, D Gilford 73, 66, A Cabrera (Arg) 71, 68, M Mackenzie 70, 69, Zhang Lian-wei (China) 69, 70; G Nicklaus (US) 70, 69, J Spence 70, 69, S Grappasonni (It) 68, 71, R Coles 68, 71, 140: N Chapman 72, 68, P Fulke (Swe) 69, 71, P Senior (Aus) 72, 68, J Singh (Fiji) 71, 69, R Wessels (SA) 68, 72, S Ballesteros (Sp) 70, 70; S Leaney (Aus) 74, 66, B Lane 72, 68, I Giner (Sp) 71, 69, F Cea (Sp) 68, 72, J Lomas 69, 71, J Payne 69, 71; J Sandelin (Swe) 66, 72, M Mouland 70, 70, A Clapp 73, 67, M Olazabal (Sp) 70, 70, M Roslo (It) 71, 69, Missed the cut: 141: I Garbutt 72, 69, P Olunci (Switz) 70, 71, D Parisson (Swe) 65, 75, A Karklevonen (Fin) 75, 66, M Tumnicliff 72, 69, A Coffart 69, 72, D Chopra (Swe) 69, 72, D Lynn 68, 73, J Cipla (Switz) 70, 71, N Faldo 71, 70, I Pyman 69, 72, 142: A Oldcorn 72, 70, E Canonica (It) 74, 68, M Goggin (Aus) 70, 72, C Suneson (Sp) 71, 71, D Borrego (Sp) 72, 70, F Jacobson (Swe) 73, 69, D Hospital (Sp) 72, 70, J Townsend (US) 72, 70, R Russell 71, 71, A Sandywell 70, 72, 143, J Haeggman (Swe) 72, 71, V Phillips 72, 71, I Garrido (Sp) 72, 71, R Burns 69, 74, J Hawksworth 74, 69, J Remesy (Fr) 73, 70, S Allan (Aus) 73, 70, B May (US) 72, 71, H P Thuel (Ger) 74, 69, C Watts 71, 72, D Howell 72, 71, K Eriksson (Swe) 74, 69, 144: M Gates 71, 73, G Chalmers (Aus) 73, 71, N Henning (SA) 74, 70, J Hawkes (SA) 70, 74, T Gilks 74, 70, 145: J Blatt (Switz) 71, 73, D Smyth 74, 70, P Hedblom (Swe) 73, 71, M Long (NZ) 70, 74, R Claydon 72, 72, G Eliasson (Swe) 73, 71; K Brink (Swe) 73, 71

BALLYLIFFIN: Donegal Irish Open: First-round scores (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 68: S Gustafson (Swe), R Karlsson (Swe), S Mason (US), 71: R Camacho (Sp), 72: J Head, E Esteri (Ger), 73: A Rogers, A Lamaneta (Sp), K Andersson (Swe), A Sanchez-Torrelblanca (Sp), I Tinning (Den), A-M Knight (Aus), 74: A Berg (Swe), T Eakin, I Macann (It), S Forster 75: T Craik, L Mantz (SA), K Taylor, N Murray, M-T Escobal-Bosetti (Fr), G Stewart 76: S Head, R Hokkanen (Fin), K Larsson (Swe), B Pieszara (SA), C Duffy, L Brooky (NZ), K Lunn (Aus), 77: E Fields, L Dewes, S Prosser, J Oliver, C Rasmussen (Den), R Nugent, M Murray, M Hedblom (Swe), 78: J Forbes, S Bennett, V Michaud (Fr), M de Boer (Holl), 79: N Karlsson (Swe), M Arnis (Sp), J Van Hagen (Holl), K Thomas, K Tebbet

WISCONSIN: Milwaukee Open: First-round scores (United States unless stated): 68: L Roberts, 69: J Den Bleyker, 68, M Calcavecchia, B Claar, L Porter, M Carnevale, M Springer, G Hjerstedt (Swe) 67: J Cook, V Singh (Fiji), D Toms, B Glasson, M Hulbert, T Schulz, B Cheesman, C DiMarco, J Maginnes, R Garnaz, D Edwards, D Barron, J McGovern, T Byrum

STRASBOURG OPEN: (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 67: D R Jacquelin, U Weinhandl (Austria), D de Vooght (Belg) 69: R Eyraud (Fr), M Pendanes (Fr), M Wheelhouse (NZ), J M Kuka (Fr), D Park, D A Russell, D Parns, 70: M Biner (Austria), A Manasson (Fr), M Backhausen (Den), F Schmid (Fr), W Bennett, 71: C Doucet (Fr), E Dussart (Fr), S Son Hoa (Fr), R Gonzalez (Sp), J M Lara (Sp), R Bland, J Dahlstrom (Fin), J Senden (Aus) R Guidard (Fr), D Noguathec (Fr) F Howley, M Lafeber (Holl) W Bladon

ROYAL NORWICH: English Ladies Association County Finals: Yorkshire 7 Worcestershire 2. Foursomes (Yorkshire first) E Duggins and J Gamy halved with C George and N Lawrenson, S Coverley and S Garbutt lost to J Mander and L Fox 3 and 1, D Rushworth and S Nadon bt S Clanton and A More 3 and 1, Singles: R Hudson bt S Haslam 7 and 5; L Tupholme halved with Lawrenson, Rushworth bt Cranton 2 and 1, Coverley bt Mony 4 and 2, Duggidoy bt George 4 and 3, Garby bt Mander 2 holes Surrey 8.5 Worcestershire 0.5. Foursomes (Surrey first): A Whiteley and L Macgowan bt C Dommett and C Hetkin 3 and 2, K Burton and R Prout halved with J Roberts and K Clarke, K Knowles and K Tennyswood bt R Cam and G Whitehead 5 and 4. Singles: Burton bt Dommett 3 and 2, Prout bt Roberts 4 and 3, Knowles bt Clarke 2 and 1, I Brien bt S Reeves 4 and 2, L Evans bt Cam 2 and 1, McGowan bt Whitehead 5 and 3. Final positions: 1, Yorkshire, 2, Surrey, 3, Devon, 4 Worcestershire

DALMAHOY: Golden Charters Scottish Senior Open: First-round scores: (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 66: D Jones, 67: I Richardson, 68: R Shearer (Aus) 69: C O'Connor, Jr, N Radcliffe (Aus), 70: D Hueh, T Horton, N Wood, A Garrido (Sp), J Bjornsson (Swe) 71: G Gray, J Garner, R Vonwey, L Monroe (US) 72: R Bernardini (It), J Founo (SA), E Polland, M Bembridge, M Slater, D McCart, G Parkhill, T Halpin, A O'Connor, T Gale, D Oakley (US), T Jackan

RUGBY LEAGUE

ALLIANCE CHALLENGE CUP: Quarter-Finals: Salford 25 St Helens 26, Wigan 58 Widnes 0

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: Elimination final: North Sydney 2 Canterbury 23

SNOOKER

PLYMOUTH: China International: Final qualifying: B Jones (Eng) bt D Harold (Eng) 5-1, B Snaddon (Scot) bt C MacGillavray (Scot) 5-4; D Henry (Scot) bt M Clark (Eng) 5-0, P Lines (Eng) bt G Dott (Scot) 5-2, D Finbow (Eng) bt D Morgan (Wales) 5-2; D Hann (Aus) bt A Hicks (Eng) 5-4

SPEEDWAY

ELITE LEAGUE: Ipswich 58 Swindon 32.

PREMIER LEAGUE: Sheffield 54 Stoke 35

TENNIS

NEW YORK: US Open: Men: Singles: Second round: G Rusedski (GB) bt B Ullirach (Cz) 4-6, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5, J Bjorkman (Swe) bt J Stark (US) 6-2, 6-3, 6-1, M Tilstrom (Swe) bt S Dosedel (Cz) 1-6, 6-3, 7-6, 3-6, 6-3, M Salin (Russ) bt T Dent (US) 6-3, 6-1, 7-6, A Voinea (Rom) bt B Bryan (US) 0-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-4, A Agassi (US) bt G Raoux (Fr) 6-3, 6-2, 6-7, 3-6, 6-1, S Siemerink (Holl) bt D Hrbaty (Slovakia) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, P Sampras (US) bt P Goldstein (US) 7-5, 2-6, 6-3, 6-3, P Rafter (Aus) bt H Gumy (Arg) 6-4, 6-1, 6-2, T Muster (Austria) bt W Black (Zim) 6-7, 6-4, 6-3, 6-0; D Sanguinetti (It) bt M Damm (Cz) 7-6, 7-6, 6-4, D Nainkin (SA) bt G Kuerten (Br) 2-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt T Martin (US) 1-6, 7-6, 7-5, 6-3, T Henman (GB) bt F Mantilla (Sp) 6-3, 5-7, 7-5, 6-4, N Kiefer (Ger) bt F Clavet (Sp) 6-4, 7-6, 6-1, O Gross (Ger) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 6-1, 6-3, 6-4. Doubles: First round: D Bowen (US) and T Zdrazila (Cz) bt K J Hippensteel and D Martin (US) 6-2, 6-2, C Hoggard (SA) and J Waite (US) bt A Kratnov (Macedonia) and P Rosner (SA) 7-6, 6-4, L Lobo (Arg) and J Sanchez (Sp) bt E Ferrera (SA) and R Leach (US) 6-2, 6-4, M Bhupathi and L Paes (India) bt F Mofigeni (Br) and M Puerta (Arg) 7-5, 7-6, J-L de Jager and R Koenig (SA) bt M-K Goellner and D Prinosil (Ger) 7-6, 7-6, N Broad (GB) and P Norval (SA) bt D Del Rio (Arg) and N Djordevic (Macedonia) 6-4, 7-6, T Carbonell and F Roig (Sp) bt T Kempers and M Oosting (Holl) 6-7, 6-4, 6-4, B MacPhie and P McEnroe (US) bt D Flach and M Kal (US) 6-2, 6-1; M Knowles (Bah) and D Nestor (Can) bt G Silcock (Aus) and M Wakefield (SA) 3-6, 6-2, 7-6, B Black (Zim) and A O'Brien (SA) bt B Hengarth (Sa) and K Kinnear (GB) 6-3, 6-2, L Balk (Sa) and D Sapsford (GB) bt J Novak and D Rikl (Cz) 6-4, 6-3; M Bhupathi and L Paes (India) bt K Braasch (Ger) and M Ondruska (SA) 6-2, 6-4. Women: Singles: Second round: L Neiland (Lat) bt M de Swardt, (SA) 5-7, 6-0, 6-2, L Raymond (US) bt N Zvereva (Belo) 6-2, 6-2, L Davenport (US) bt L McNeil (US) 6-1, 6-1, M J Fernandez (US) bt A Fusai (Fr) 6-3, 4-6, 7-6, N Tauziat (Fr) bt O Barabanschikova (Belo) 6-7, 6-2, 6-3, V Ruano-Pascual (Sp) bt T Snyder (US) 6-4, 6-4, C Martinez (Sp) bt J Tmil (US) 7-6, 6-1; H Nagyova (Slovakia) bt C Ruben (US) 7-6, 6-4, A Kournikova (Russ) bt R Brokova (Cz) 6-3, 6-4, Third round: V Novotna (Cz) bt S Testud (Fr) 6-2, 6-3, M Seles (US) A Miller (US) 6-3, 6-3, N Dechy (Fr) bt G Loon Garcia (Sp) 6-4, 6-4. Doubles: First round: K Adams (US) and M Bollegraf (Holl) bt R Grande (It) and S Tosud (Fr) 6-1, 2-6, 6-2, V Csurgo (Hun) and E Kim (S Korea) bt J Capriati and A Serra (US) 6-7, 6-3, 6-3, M Babel (Ger) and M Paz (Arg) bt A Carisson (Swe) and B Rittner (Ger) 7-5, 7-5, M Hingis (Switz) and J Novotna (Cz) bt P Stoyanova (Bul) and E Wagner (Ger) 6-4, 6-2, R Dragomir (Rom) and I Majoli (Cro) bt S Fanna (It) and L Montalvo (Arg) 7-5, 6-4, Nataqudova (Slovakia) and T Tanasugarn (Thai) bt N de Villiers (SA) and L McShea (Aus) 6-2, 6-2, M Sadu and Y Yoshida (Japan) bt L Golarsa (It) and L Hom (SA) 7-8, 6-4, Second round: L Raymond (US) and R Stubbs (Aus) bt S Jeyaseelan and R Simpson (Can) 6-1, 6-4, Mixed Doubles: First round: N Miyagi (Japan) and D Rodil (Mex) bt P Suarez and D Orsanic (Arg) 6-3, 6-2, V Williams and J Gimelstob (US) bt Y Basuki (Indo) and T Kompers (Holl) 2-6, 6-3, 6-3, C Vis (Holl) and J-L de Jager (SA) bt J Haland-Decugis and O Delaitic (Fr) 6-7, 6-3, 6-3, M Lucic (Cro) and M Bhupathi (India) bt A Huber (Ger) and J Eagle (Aus) 3-6, 6-2, 7-5, F Labat (Arg) and D Van Roost (Bel) bt C Black (Zim) and I Seljuina (Kaz) 6-3, 6-4, K Kunce (Aus) and F Montana (US) bt E Tatarkova (Ukr) and D Nestor (Can) 6-4, 7-5

WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today

CRICKET

NatWest Trophy

Final

10.30, 60 overs

LORD'S: Derbyshire v Lancashire

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership

First division

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Bath v Wasps .....
Gloucester v London Irish .....
Leicester v Harlequins .....
London Scottish v Sale .....
Richmond v Newcastle .....

Second division

Exeter v Bristol .....
Fylde v Orrell .....
Moseley v Wakefield .....
Rugby v Blackheath .....
Waterloo v Rotherham .....
Worcester v Coventry .....

Jewson National League

First division

Camberley v Wharfedale .....
Henley v Harrogate .....
Lydney v Birmingham/Solihull .....
Morley v Liverpool St Helens .....
Newbury v Reading .....
Nottingham v Manchester .....
Otley v Rosslyn Park .....

Second division north

Aspatria v Winnington Park .....
New Brighton v Uchfield .....
Nuneaton v Kendal .....
Preston Grasshoppers v Whitchurch .....
Sandal v Hinckley .....
Stourbridge v Sedgley Park .....
Walsall v Sheffield .....

Second division south

Barking v Weston-super-Mare .....
Bridgwater v Tabard .....
Clifton v Norwich .....
Esher v Redruth .....
Havant v Met Police .....
North Walsham v Bracknell .....
Plymouth v Cheltenham .....

Welsh League

Premier division

Aberavon v Newport (2.30) .....
Ebbw Vale v Bridgend (2.30) .....
Neath v Caerphilly (2.30) .....
Pontypridd v Llanelli (5.30) .....

First division

Bonymaen v Pontypool (2.30) .....
Cross Keys v Llandovery (2.30) .....
Maesteg v Treorchy (2.30) .....
Merthyr v Tredegar (2.30) .....
Newbridge v Abertillery (2.30) .....
South Wales Police v Rumney (2.30) .....
Tondu v Dunvant (2.30) .....
UWIC v Blackwood (2.30) .....

Anglo-Welsh matches

Bedford v Cardiff .....
Swansea v West Hartlepool (2.30) .....

Tennent's Velvet Premiership

First division

Currie v Boroughmuir .....
Glasgow Hawks v Heriot's FP .....
Jed-Forest v West of Scotland .....
Stirling County v Hawick .....
Watsonians v Melrose .....

Second division

Dundee HSFP v Kelso .....
Edinburgh Acads v Musselburgh .....
Gala v Aberdeen GSFP .....
Kilmarnock v Kirkcaldy .....
Selkirk v Biggar .....

Third division

Glasgow Southern v Stewart's Mel FP .....
Glenrothes v Grangemouth .....
Gordonians v Ayr .....
Peebles v Berwick .....
Preston Lodge v East Kilbride .....

RUGBY LEAGUE

Second division

Bramley v Barrow (3.0) .....

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division (all matches kick-off 3.0): Castleford Lock Lane v Haworth, Egremont v Beverley East Hull; Leigh MR v Wigan St Patricks; Saddleworth v Skirlaugh, Thornhill v Askam, Wakey Colonial v Wigan St Judes; West Hull v Oldham St Annes. First division: Featherstone Lions v Rochdl, Milford v Dudley Hill, Millom v Barrow Island, Mokdgreen v Shaw Cross, Rochdale Mayfield v East Leeds; Siddal v Oulton, Wigan St Judes v Leigh East. Second division: Crosfields v York, Dewsbury Moor v Eccles, Eccmoor v Normanton, Hull Dockers v Dodworth, Ideal Isberg v Blackbrook; Keighley Alb v Ovenden; New Earswick v London Skolers.

OTHER SPORT

EQUESTRIANISM: Burghley Horse Trials.
HOCKEY: Men: Quadrangular tournaments (in Bournemouth): Beckenham v Bournemouth v Firebrands v Oxford Hawks. Club matches: Boumville v Barford T (2.30), Brooklands v Stourport (1.0); Guildford v East Grinstead (12.0) Old Loughtonians v Monzoushil, Surbiton v Old Whitgiftians (2.30), Women: Quadrangular tournament (in Bosswood, Nottingham, 10.30) Aldridge v Bedans v Loughboro S v Olton v Sherwood Quadrangular tournament (in Ipswich); British Police v Chelmsford v Ipswich v Trojans.
MOTORCYCLING: British Superbike championship (at Silverstone).
SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Eastbourne v Coventry (7.30), Premier League: Berwick v Edinburgh (7.0); Stoke v Sheffield (7.30)

Tomorrow

CRICKET

Axa League

1.0, 40 overs

CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Glamorgan

CHELMSFORD: Essex v Nottinghamshire

LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Middlesex

THE OVAL: Surrey v Kent

HOVE: Sussex v Yorkshire

1.05, 40 overs

TAUNTON: Somerset v Worcestershire

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: Dean Park, Bournemouth (first day of two): Dorset v Staffordshire.

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership

First division

Saracens v Northampton (3.0) .....

Second division

Leeds v London Welsh (2.30) .....

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League

Castleford v Salford (3.30) .....
Halifax v Sheffield (3.0) .....
London v Bradford (7.05) .....
Warrington v Huddersfield (3.0) .....
Wigan v Hull (1.0) .....

First division

Grand Final series play-offs

Featherstone v Swinton (6.0) .....
Hull KR v Dewsbury (3.0) .....

Second division

Lancashire Lynx v Batley (3.0) .....
Oldham v York (3.0) .....
Workington v Doncaster (3.0) .....

OTHER SPORT

EQUESTRIANISM: Burghley Horse Trials.
MOTORCYCLING: British Superbike championship (at Silverstone).
SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Glasgow v Newcastle (6.30), Newport v Isle of Wight (2.30); Dunlop youth development league riders' Championship: Final (at Buxton, 3.0); Dunlop Conference League: Maidenhall v St. Austell (3.30)

THE TIMES SATU

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MICHAEL LYNAGH



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MATCH-BY-MATCH

Llanelli seek

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No place to hide if you haven't done your homework



The first day of school after the *summer break. Do you* remember what that was like? The sweaty palms for the new kid standing in the corner, the old hands having seen it all before. The *excitement of being back together.* The enthusiastic telling of the summer tales: where you went, what you did and who you did it with.

That is what it is like on the first *day back at the rugby club after the* summer break.

"Am I fit enough?" "What have you done?" "I haven't done anything!" "I hope today isn't too hard." These *are the thoughts going* through most players' minds when *they turn up at the clubhouse and* report back for active service.

After a few welcome words and housekeeping from the manager, it is over to the coach/director of rugby *to outline the goals for the season.* He will tell the players why this *season is going to be different from* the last and how he proposes that the club is going to achieve a rise up the competitive ladder that is the Allied Dunbar Premiership.

It will then be down to the fitness coach, who, if he is worth his salt, has had all the players on an off-season training programme. This is the day he will discover the players *who have put in the miles during the* lay-off, as opposed to those who have been lying on the beach rather than running along it. This is where all the players realise that the off-*season is officially over.*

Testing commences. Fat, skinfold, weight, aerobic and anaerobic capacity, speed, standing jump and flexibility will all be measured, *calculated and recorded. From this* the fitness guru will be able to see *which of the players need to stay* back after school and do some more *work. Professional rugby probably* means some will be fined.

End of day one. Sounds like fun? Well, I for one am glad that for the first time in years I am not waking up the next morning with aching calf muscles and looking for excuses as to why I shouldn't start day two.

I am still doing a bit of running and am finding that, when I do stop for a rest, nobody is yelling at me and telling me that I am letting the team down, or the old chestnut that "if you rest in training you will rest during the game". Needless to say, I *am not missing this.*

After what seems like an eternity to the players, the coach will decide to introduce the ball. This is a very important milestone in the pre-*season programme. It means that* they have made the progression from running machine to rugby player. I was always happy, very *happy, to see the ball come out.*

At this point the coach will also introduce the players to what he has spent the whole summer thinking about. The game-plan. This is the document that will take the club to glory this season.

It will be discussed, dissected, chewed up and spat out, practised and practised a bit more, talked about again and then finally released upon us, the fans, in the first game. And you thought they just turned up, got changed and played.

Trial games are a necessary evil. New and old players, combinations and, indeed, the game-plan need to be tested. From a player's point of view, injuries need to be avoided, much in the same way that fly *halves have traditionally avoided* anything to do with flank forwards, while at the same time trying to fit into the team pattern and playing *well enough to impress selectors.*

We are now ready for the real thing — the first meaningful game. *Win and the excitement is hard to* suppress: "This is really our year." Lose and there will be some self-doubt and plenty of excuses: "We played well, but it is only the first *game of a long season, we lacked* concentration and we will improve."

When a team wins a competition, be it the World Cup or the Premiership, every other team in that competition looks at how that success was achieved and then sets about *trying to emulate it. This is* why back-to-back champions are a rare occurrence.

If a team has been successful the year before, it needs to progress. *How often do we hear from players* and coaches: "This is what we did last year"? What we did last year will not be good enough to win *anything.*

Fitness levels need to improve; skills to be better; new moves need to be worked out; new game-plans need to be implemented; and new players need to be integrated into all this. Some teams even have to get used to new home grounds.

Well, *here we are, at the cusp of a* new season. It promises to be the most competitive, skilful and outright entertaining season on record, despite the feeble joke that is the *organisation off the pitch; but then,* that is another article altogether.

Make sure you catch the show as soon as possible, to check out if the players, coaches and fitness gurus have done their homework.

□ *Michael Lynagh, the former Australia and Saracens fly half, begins a regular column in* The Times *today*

RUGBY UNION

Richmond offer some hope for brighter future

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

A NEW season for English rugby finally arrives. Was there ever any doubt that it would? As Bristol, Coventry and Moseley struggled to stay afloat during the summer, as Bedford bid to survive long enough to consolidate a place *among the elite, as we still* await official confirmation of the first-division fixtures, the rugby public has certainly been entitled to its doubts.

Today should be a day to discuss the playing prospects of the leading contenders, to assess Newcastle's chances of defending the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division title, to judge whether Saracens can overtake the pride of the North East and to weigh up whether Richmond or Northampton can sustain a consistent challenge.

This, though, is the week in *which the first division clubs* were accused at the board meeting of English Rugby Partnership (ERP) of "*shafting*" their colleagues in the *second division; the week* when match officials handling games at Bedford and Swansea are likely to rule themselves out of authorised *fixtures: when the Rugby Foot*ball Union (RFU) board pondered the sanctions to be imposed on those clubs that play unapproved matches.

The growing *pains of pro*fessionalism are harder to bear than expected, and made no easier by the intrigue with which they seem constantly attended. It was a time for *blunt speaking at the ERP* board meeting and the men of the North are game for that: Robin Foster, of Wakefield, chairman of English Second-*Division Rugby, accused his* first division colleagues of "shafting" the second division over projected competitions involving the French and then *the breakaway Welsh clubs.*

Dick Greenwood, the former England coach from Waterloo, suggested that the goalposts had not merely been moved, but that they had disappeared completely.

In principle, there is unity: *so many seek a genuine cross*border competition, for example. But, in practice, it must be worked out with consideration for all and not merely the top *flight, who will be watching* European football grapple with a super league with interest and concern.

The second division clubs *take no exception to the desire* of Cardiff and Swansea to join the English bandwagon, recognising as they do two clubs of world renown. They would *not say the same of the new* Scottish super-clubs, Edinburgh Reivers and Glasgow Caledonians. They merely wonder why the Welsh Rugby *Union would even contem*plate paying Graham Henry a salary of more than £200,000 a year to coach the national team and then fall out with two of his primary assets.

Henry will be in England this afternoon, at the Madejski Stadium in Reading, where Richmond's strong coterie of Welshmen lay down a challenge to Newcastle. But Wales will keep an eye, too, on events at Bedford where David Price, a recently retired premier-grade referee, is scheduled to handle the unsanctioned game with Cardiff.

Meanwhile, the RFU must be taking legal soundings to determine what sanctions it can use against first division clubs playing against Cardiff and Swansea. It will not restrain their trade but it will not offer normal services either: it will balance the law of the land against the law of the International Rugby Board, when its time and money would be far better spent in marketing and developing the game.

The RFU may hope that the unauthorised Anglo-Welsh series will fade and die; but it cannot guarantee that it will not be deemed a roaring success by the public. So, what about the rugby?

"The core of the side is the same but around the core we have different players with different abilities," Rob Andrew, director of rugby at Newcastle, said of the squad that opens its title defence today in front not only of Henry, but of his England counterpart, Clive Woodward, who will go on to the game at Watford tomorrow between Saracens and Northampton.

By core, Andrew refers to himself, at fly half, Gary Armstrong and Dean Ryan. *But Pat Lam, a significant* component in the merited triumph last season, has departed to Northampton. Newcastle's only significant *newcomer is Marius Hurter,* the South Africa prop; Lam and the sound, sensible Alan Tait have gone and Newcastle have the appearance of a club *in retrenchment,* both in playing and financial terms.

Richmond were *a stum*bling-block in March, when they won 30-17 and so nearly put the skids under Newcastle's pursuit of the Premier-*ship. "I'm trying to build up a* side that plays unpredictable rugby," John Kingston, Richmond's director of rugby, said. "As a coach you have to ask *questions of the opposition."*

There were times a year ago when Kingston was asking more questions of his own players, but their stylish finish to the season, their spanking new home and their sensible *recruitment lend a genuine air* of excitement to day one, and for that we should be grateful.

MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE

Bath v Wasps

Head to head: Bath 11 wins, Saracens 4, 1 draw

The former Saracen, Ben Stumham, makes his Bath debut, while Iain Balshaw is at full back as Matt Perry is injured. Phil de Glanville, wearing a No 13 shirt to abide by new league regulations, is captain as Richie Webster is still feeling a hamstring injury. No place for Andy Nicol, while Kevin Yates is among the replacements. For Wasps, Josh Lewsey wears No 15; Gareth Rees moves to *fly half.* Alex King and Lawrence Dallaglio still injured. Eben Rollitt, *who, like Lewsey,* quit Bristol in the close season, replaces Dallaglio.

Gloucester v London Irish

Head to head: Gloucester lead 6-2

Gloucester, formidable at home, have all their England tourists on parade except Phil Greening. Mark Mapletoft remains at fly half despite *arrival of Simon Mannix.* Gloucester have settled look, unlike London Irish, *where hordes* have come and gone. Despite legions of southern-hemi*sphere recruits,* smattering of Irish blood includes Conor O'Shea, skipper and full back, and Malcolm O'Kelly. Seven of the side last year do remain — at least for now.

Leicester v Harlequins

Head to head: *Leicester* lead 9-7

After 72 years of tradition the Tigers have had to jettison their famous letters in favour of 1-15. As a gesture will keep ABC on their shorts. They field two summer recruits, Tim *Stimpson* at full back and Pat Howard in the centre. Will Greenwood, Michael Horak and Eric Miller all out of contention but due back soon. Zinzan Brooke leads the charge of the All Black brigade for Ouins, *who name a* squad of 22.

L Scottish v Manchester Sale

Head to head: Sale lead 4-1

New home at the Stoop for the exiles on their return to the first division. The half backs, Guy Easterby and Simon Binns, from Rotherham, make their debut as does the Australian hooker, Damian Cummins, who has a Scottish granny. Sale led by Shane Howarth as Jim Mallinder is injured. *David Rees is out and Tom Beim* doubtful. Jan Machacek makes his debut after joining from Newport.

Richmond v Newcastle

Head to head: Newcastle lead 4-1

Match of the day and fitting start to Richmond's life at the Madejski Stadium. They finished last season with six straight wins and are at full strength except for Scott Quinnell, *who has dislocated shoulder.* The reigning champions, Newcastle, also *have a full complement of 23 to* choose from with the exception of the prop, Paul Van Zandvliet. Vander is preferred to Cabannes and Pichot will play at scrum half.

Saracens v Northampton (tomorrow)

Head to head: Saracens up 5-4

Another mouth-watering prospect. Alain Penaud makes his Saracens *debut at Vicarage Road.* Can he fill Michael Lynagh's shoes? No Francois Pienaar or Paddy Johns; Craig Yandell and Troy Coker step in. Saints will include all four of their signings, among them Pat Lam before he departs for World Cup duty with Western Samoa.

Mark Souster



NICK RAY

Despite his achievements, Evans still aims to win the Premiership and reach a Twickenham cup final with Bath

Evans happy to strut his stuff once more

DAVID HANDS



So to Bath, to try to make some sense out of this crazy, mixed-up rugby season. To remind ourselves once again *of what rugby players do to* entertain their by now exasperated public. To *talk to* Ieuan Evans at the start of what will be, in all probability, the Wales wing's last season, one final strut on the *stage he has adorned for so* long.

"The strut? Ade [Adedayo Adebayo] was asking me about that the other day. It *just happened. I tried one of* those dying-swan landings that some wings do nowadays and just winded myself."

Evans has acquired the Englishman's self-deprecating humour, though it was there long before he left Llanelli and crossed the Severn Bridge in time to help Bath to win the Heineken *Cup last season.*

The walk, the strut is part of his rugby persona. After every try you will see it, modesty struggling with *pride for the upper hand as* he walks back to his team's territory. And there have been many tries: 34 in international rugby, 33 in his record 72 appearances for Wales and one in seven international outings for the *British Isles. "I still get it, still* get the buzz from scoring — some people inject themselves for the rush I get on the rugby field. It's wonderful."

Still there, you see, even at 34 — the enthusiasm for the game he has cherished since he was a youngster, despite everything the administrators can do to reduce it to farce, *despite all the injuries* and the troughs of disappointment as the status of Wales as a leading playing nation has declined.

"I was astonished at how few turned up to watch *Llanelli play* Ebbw Vale last week. They drew 3,000 for the *friendly* against Saracens but here were two of the leading protagonists in *the premier* division and they could only manage around 2,000," Evans said. "But it's not a question of apportioning blame for the mess we're in.

"It's no good laying all the blame at the feet of the governing bodies, although I would say that those in the *northern hemisphere* stuck their fingers in the dyke for far too long. Instead of dripfeeding the professional game, it was left totally to *rampant commercialism and market forces."*

There speaks the player who, for the best part of his career, has sustained a place *in the finance industry, to* which he may yet return if, next summer, he decides to call it a day. Yet Evans remains essentially a private man. Home in Cowbridge, with Kathryn, his wife, and Lili, their 17-month-old daughter, is a haven of peace from the hubbub of match day or the banter of the *training field.*

Yet even in the public eye, Evans identifies similar char*acteristics about the two* places he has called home in a rugby sense — Stradey *Park in* Llanelli, where he played for 14 years, and the Recreation Ground at Bath. Completely different communities but based around the family — both of those who play and those who watch *them* play.

This continuity is important to Evans and his compatriots even in these much-changed times.

Particularly so because Evans clearly identifies the generations of talent *that* represent Wales so well in their national game at school and youth level, yet whose skills seem less and less to translate to the senior game. "How do we convert that talent to the highest level? We're *missing* something and a lot of it stems from the mediocre standards of our domestic rugby. We can get away with not being quite at our best, lacking a yard of pace here or showing more physical power there.

"As rugby changed through my career, I changed with it. Every time I came *back from a tour I knew I was* missing something, that I had to work at some particular area of my game. It's the *constant improvement,* the knowledge that you can never rest on your laurels, become complacent. That was the Welsh problem during the 1980s but, with the game developing at the pace that it *is, you miss a step and you* have to catch up two.

"We missed ten years. But, at the top level, you can't coast, there's nowhere to *hide. We must find fresh* challenges, fresh enthusiasm among the players that will spill over into the supporters."

In Evans's mind the answer lies in the proposed *British league, not necessar*ily for England but vital to the Welsh, Scots and Irish. He acknowledged the superiority of the Allied Dunbar *Premiership to other British* competitions but suggested *that a regenerated Welsh* game could add another dimension.

"The Welsh clubs can't keep playing each other, in front of dwindling crowds, be happy with mediocrity. I can sympathise with *Cardiff and Swansea* for what they are trying to do by breaking away but I can also sympathise with those left behind, like Pontypridd and *Llanelli. They are capable of* doing well if they are given a better quality of game."

Evans has found that with Bath, yet still ambition oozes from him: "I've yet to win a *Premiership, never appeared* in a Twickenham cup final. It would be nice, when I retire, *to look back on my period* with Bath and think, 'yes, those were good years'."

There will be a body of rugby supporters from more than just England and Wales, united in their desire to see Evans achieve his hopes before he walks the walk for the last time.

'Some people inject themselves for the rush I get playing rugby'

Llanelli seeking fresh start

By Gerald Davies

LEST we *forget,* amid all the hullabaloo surrounding matches at Bedford and Swansea, the Welsh League premier division continues today.

Llanelli were far from *pro*ducing a performance against Ebbw Vale last Saturday that might encourage their supporters to believe that they are about to reverse the many misfortunes of last season, when they won only five of their 14 games. They will need to step up a gear today when they travel to Sardis Road to confront Pontypridd, where they lost twice last season.

Llanelli have a long list of players who are unavailable. Although Aled Thomas played well at scrum half last week, the team functions better with the more maturely astute Rupert Moon, who is at the helm today. Roddy Boobyer, of Bridgend, has joined his twin brother, Neil, at Stradey Park.

Pontypridd, who have half a dozen players in the present Wales squad, stuttered to victory at Virginia Park, Caerphilly, in their opening fixture and have made five changes. Aled Griffiths, Andrew Lamerton and Kieron Jones replace Mike Griffiths, Marcus Thomas and Neil Eynon in a new front row. Rhys Shorney, a Wales Under-21 international wing, comes in for Simon Enoch.

Caerphilly visit Neath, who beat Newport last week. Neath were taken over by the Welsh Rugby Union during the summer. What this means, exactly, no one quite knows, *except that the club was saved* from bankruptcy.

Newport, in attempting to stay within their financial means last year, did not pay the inflationary fees other clubs did and paid the price. To all intents and purposes, they were relegated.

Neath have secured Dave Tiueti, from Bristol, the Tongan prop, Damien Pensini, and the New Zealander, Brett Sinkinson. They won 36-6 at Rodney Parade. Tiueti and Sinkinson both scored tries.

Newport play Aberavon, who lost 46-10 to Bridgend. Bridgend go to Ebbw Vale.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Edwards is aiming to keep fading hope alive for London

By a Correspondent

IF Shaun Edwards ever sits down to write his memoirs, there will be little doubt which nine-month period will be scripted as the darkest chapter *in his illustrious career.*

Edwards, the most decorated player in rugby league history, was not at Bradford Bulls long enough to add to *his collection of 39 winner's* medals. The 31-year-old Great Britain half back moved to Bradford last September from London Broncos for a modest £40,000.

A fanfare of publicity greeted Edwards's signing, with Bradford believing his acquisition would ensure that the *IJB Super League title stayed* at Odsal in 1998. However, just 12 games and five tries later, Edwards was heading back to London amid stories of *disharmony with team-mates.*

Edwards, who produced a verbal sidestep as incisive as his on-the-field body swerve, would only comment that he *never fitted into Bradford's* style of play.

Now try-poacher supreme Edwards is back to his ubiquitous best and is likely to play a *key role in the outcome of* London's clash with Bradford at the Stoop tomorrow.

Edwards did not win a medal, either, in his first six-*month stint at London but his* 13 tries in 23 matches did help the Broncos to finish runners-up to Bradford last season.

It has been a different and *sadder story for both clubs in* 1998, with London needing to win tomorrow to keep alive their slender hopes of competing in the inaugural JJB Grand Final series.

Bradford, who have lost *four of their past six matches,* have also endured a frustrating campaign but are favourites for the fifth and final qualifying place.

A *Bulls victory and defeats* for London and the Silk Cut Challenge Cup winners, Sheffield Eagles, would leave their rivals requiring victories of *avalanche proportions and* Bulls to lose their last three *games to be overtaken.*

London ran Bradford close before losing 17-14 at Odsal in May, but then produced their best performance of the season *to beat the Bulls 22-8 at* Edinburgh in July.

Matthew Elliott, the Bradford coach, has no doubt where London's biggest threat will emanate. "We will have to keep a watchful eye on Shaun Edwards. He ran the show in Edinburgh and we cannot afford to let him do it again."

Bradford hope to have Nathan McAvoy and Matt *Calland available, but will be* without Tevita Vaikona, their 13-try leading scorer, for the rest of the season after he underwent surgery on a broken hand sustained against Castleford last Monday.

Wigan Warriors, the leaders, with one defeat in 13 matches, have their Australian hooker, Robbie McCormack, back for the visit of Hull *Sharks, with Terry O'Connor* replacing the injured Neil Cowie.

Warrington Wolves, who celebrate the centenary of their Wilderspool ground tomorrow *before announcing their move* to a new stadium, entertain Huddersfield Giants in a basement tussle.

Salford Reds, unbeaten in three matches, can leapfrog Castleford Tigers if they maintain their recent form and win *at Wheldon Road. Halifax* Blue Sox can consolidate the third place — which would *afford them the luxury of* making progress in the play-offs even if they lose their *opening match* — by ending Sheffield's interest in the Grand Final series.

CRICKET: LEICESTERSHIRE TAKE LEAD IN COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Perfect timing opens race

By Pat Gibson

EDGBASTON (final day of four): Leicestershire (24pts) beat Warwickshire (6) by 73 runs

AS Jack Birkenshaw, Leicestershire's wily old cricket manager, said last night: "It is going to be a fantastic finish to the Britannic Assurance county championship now."

His side had just beaten Warwickshire and the weather to go to the top of the table for the first time this season but he knew that the toughest part of the race was just beginning.

Leicestershire, who have now won six of their last seven matches, appear to have timed their run to perfection. But, with two rounds to go, Surrey, the leaders for the past four months, are still only five points behind, Lancashire another three adrift and Gloucestershire and Yorkshire hot on their heels.

"It's a fabulous championship, isn't it?" Birkenshaw said. "It's anybody's title.

"We're going to have to gear the lads up a little bit more now because it seems to be getting harder as each day goes by."

Simple in theory, perhaps, but not in practice. Leicestershire are as tough as they come and have the experience of winning the championship only two years ago to remind them to keep cool but they suffered many anxious moments yesterday.

They got the start they wanted when Warwickshire resumed on 46 without loss in search of a daunting target of 405, Knight, sadly out of form, driving loosely at Lewis in the third over of the day and edging low to second slip.

Wagh, however, is an emerging player and he was beginning to make Leciestershire sweat with 60 off only 79 balls, including ten fours, when Millns, playing in only his seventh championship match, produced his most important spell of the season.

There was bounce from the pavilion end and Millns bent his back to find it, bowling Wagh as he went to drive with the last ball of one over and having Singh comfortably caught at first slip off the first ball of the next.

In his next over, Millns struck the most decisive blow of all, claiming Lara leg-before, offering no stroke for the second time in the match, and Leicestershire's only worry seemed to be the rain forecast for the afternoon.

The trouble was that they were in too much of a hurry to get the job done. The bowlers lost their discipline and Hemp, who has been so short of runs that he lost his place in the side for a while, and Brown, clumping the ball to all parts in that uncomplicated way of his, took heavy toll in a fifth wicket stand of 88.

Brown had made 39 when Millns returned to have him caught in the gully and Hemp had completed his first century of the summer off 119 balls, including a six and no fewer than 18 fours, by the time Simmons, who had switched from seam to spin and back again, had him caught behind.

There was still Smith to frustrate Leicestershire until a hitherto desultory Mullally got into the act by bowling him for 41. A defiant Piper condemned them to a nervous teatime scanning the gathering clouds with an unbeaten 44 before Brimson had Munton caught at short leg and Simmons ripped out Giddins' middle stump with 26 overs remaining.

Leicestershire whooped with delight as though the title had already been won, but the canny Birkenshaw knew better. "The good thing about this win is that we've beaten a quality side in a proper four-day cricket match," he said. And so it was with a record aggregate of 1,287 runs for matches between the two counties.

Lewis and Millns, dropped from the previous match for disciplinary reasons, had played crucial roles. "That's the plan now. We leave them out of the next match against Essex and bring them back against Surrey," Birkenshaw said, with a twinkle in his eye.

TABLE

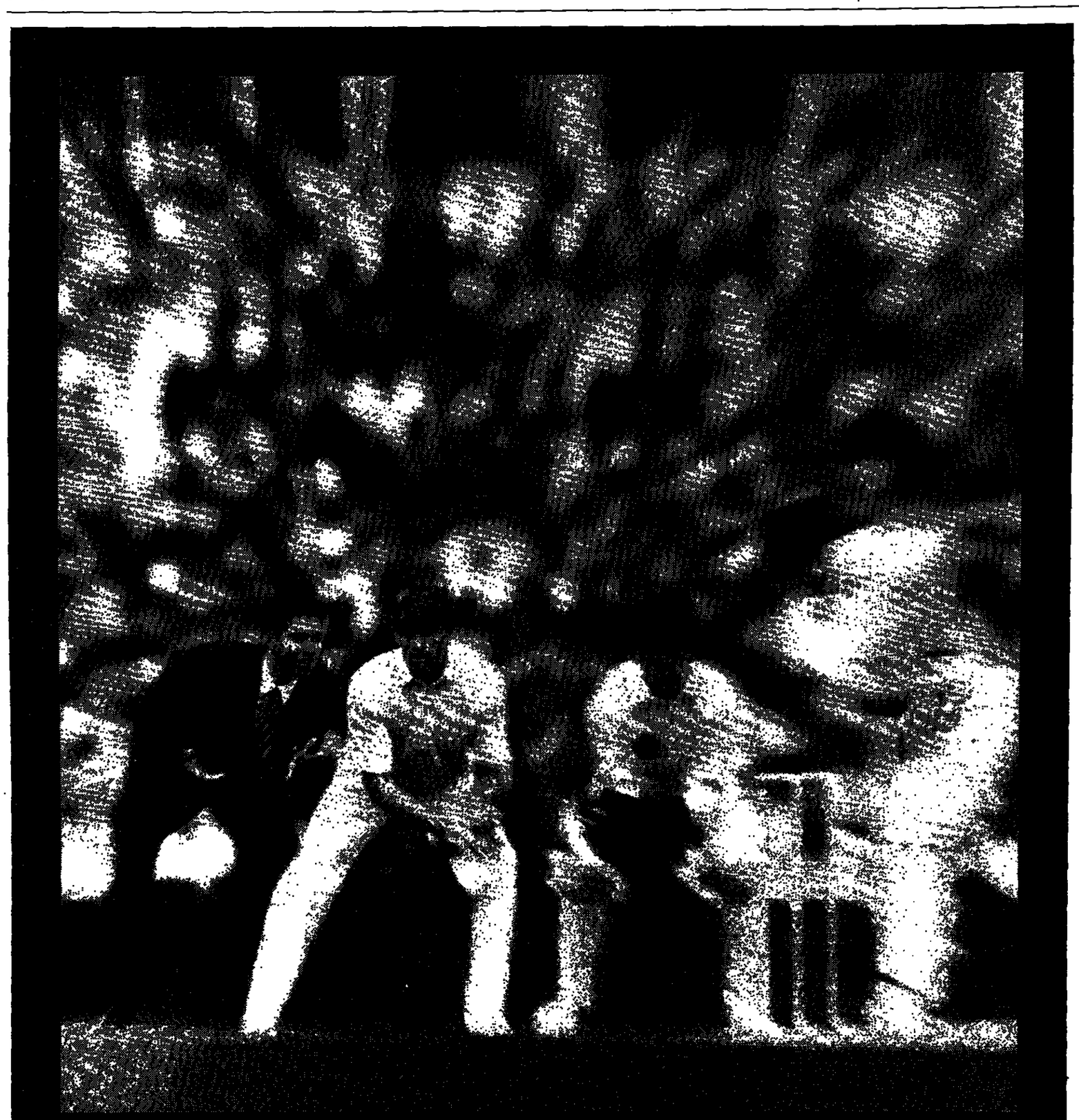
	PW	L	D	Bt	Bl	Pts
Leicestershire (10)	15	9	0	6	39	43 244
Surrey (8)	15	9	4	2	35	54 239
Lancashire (11)	15	9	1	5	29	48 236
Gloucestershire (7)	15	9	5	1	19	57 223
Yorkshire (6)	15	7	3	5	41	55 223
Sussex (16)	15	6	5	4	30	55 193
Hampshire (14)	15	6	4	5	27	53 191
Warwickshire (4)	15	5	7	3	32	54 175
Kent (2)	15	5	3	7	18	51 170
Somerset (12)	15	5	6	4	27	46 165
Derbyshire (16)	15	5	7	3	24	47 160
Glamorgan (1)	15	3	6	6	35	49 150
Durham (17)	15	3	7	5	26	57 145
Worcestershire (3)	15	3	6	6	26	51 145
Notts (13)	15	3	8	4	19	52 131
Northants (15)	15	2	5	8	23	44 123
Middlesex (4)	15	2	7	6	26	44 122
Essex (8)	15	2	9	4	14	50 108

(Last season's positions in brackets)

BEN DUFFY



A rare moment of discomfort for Ben Hollioake during his assertive innings in defeat yesterday



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Yorkshire cut top dogs down to size

By Ivo Tennant

HEADINGLEY (final day of four): Yorkshire (22pts) beat Surrey (4) by 164 runs

HOW cocksure Surrey had appeared to be at the top of the Britannic Assurance county championship. They were toppled yesterday by a Yorkshire attack that, despite the absence of Darren Gough, twice bowled them out for fewer than 150 runs. Even on a pitch prepared to negate the spin of Saqlain Mushtaq and Ian Salisbury, that was quite an achievement.

Surrey's final match, against Leicestershire, the new leaders, now has a heightened significance. And, next week, Yorkshire, who cannot be entirely discounted, have another fixture at Headingley. It Dickie Bird's farewell match as umpire on the ground where he began as a player, so there will be tears, for sure.

Yorkshire were able to pick their moment to declare yesterday in the full knowledge that, weather permitting, they possessed the bowling to account for the leaders. Hamilton is already making quite an impression and a great deal more should be heard of Hutchison and Hoggard, who has the requisite sturdiness and, perhaps, the pace to become a decent fast bowler.

Hamilton took four wickets in the Surrey second innings, giving him match figures of 11 for 72. Silverwood was markedly more accurate than on Thursday and finished with five for 30. A string of notable names, Stewart, Butcher and the Hollioakes among them, could not contend with the moving ball on a pitch that is not the kind they find themselves batting on at the Oval.

Byas declared shortly after White had reached a century that included 12 fours and two sixes, and was all the more commendable given how little experience he has of opening. Surrey were left exactly 300 to win, although the declaration could just as well have come at the start of play.

As a farmer, Byas must have an acute sense of which way the wind blows. Other captains might have declared earlier on account of forecasts in weather centres, but not him. Yorkshire could not have made a better start, for Silverwood had Butcher leg-before with a ball that nipped in to him, and then removed Ward, who sliced an intended drive to gully.

Stewart drove without conviction at Hamilton and edged a catch to first slip. Brown received a beauty from Hoggard that moved away and had him caught at the wicket. Shahid was leg-before half forward to Hamilton and, when Adam Hollioake drove a slower ball to cover, Surrey were 63 for six.

The main scoreboard operators at Headingley look to react even faster than their counterparts at the Oval. When the Yorkshire slip cordon went up for an appeal against Batty, they gave him out instantly. In fact, he stayed for a while with Ben Hollioake, who middled the ball with an ease that none of his colleagues could manage. There were 13 fours in his innings of 60, and only when Hamilton knocked out his off stump was victory assured.

Hick heroics clouded

A MATCH more memorable for the exploits of Graeme Hick and Andrew Caddick than the collective skills of Somerset or Worcestershire came to a predictably watery end at Taunton yesterday (Thrasy Petropoulos writes). The forecast rain arrived after only two overs had been bowled in the morning, and only nine more were possible after an early lunch.

This had always been a contest in which the sub-plots were of greater interest than the match itself. Hick and Caddick reacted to their omissions from the Ashes party with a century and 11 wickets in the game.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Somerset v Worcestershire

TAUNTON (final day of four): Somerset (9pts) drew with Worcestershire (8)

WORCESTERSHIRE: First innings 224 (G R Haynes 56, A R Caddick 8 for 64)

Second innings

W P C Weston c Pierson b Caddick	3
A Haines b Caddick	1
*G A Hick c Burns b Rose	110
V S Solanki c Parsons b Rose	38
D A Leatherdale lbw b Parsons	16
†S J Rhodes lbw b Caddick	0
S R Lampitt not out	41
G R Haynes not out	36
Extras (lb 5, nb 4)	9
Total (6 wkts)	254

FALL OF WICKETS 1-4, 2-15, 3-113, 4-164, 5-165, 6-176

BOWLING: Caddick 19-6-47-3, Jones 10-3-32-0, Treddenick 3-0-14-0, Rose 11-2-48-2, Pierson 13-1-47-0, Parsons 15-4-46-1, Bowler 1-0-8-0

SOMERSET: First innings 283 (M Burns 53, G D Rose 52, G R Haynes 4 for 74)

Umpires: J C Balderstone and G I Burgess

Yorkshire v Surrey

HEADINGLEY (final day of four): Yorkshire (22pts) beat Surrey (4) by 164 runs

YORKSHIRE: First innings 250 for 9 dec (C White 55, D Byas 52, M A Butcher 4 for 41)

Second innings

C White not out	104
M P Vaughan c Batty b Butcher	8
M J Wood c Batty b B C Hollioake	20
*D Byas c Batty b B C Hollioake	6
G M Fellows c Ward b Bicknell	18
B Parker not out	20
Extras (b 1, lb 15, nb 4)	20
Total (4 wkts dec)	196

FALL OF WICKETS 1-46, 2-107, 3-123, 4-151

BOWLING: Bicknell 17-4-52-1, Benjamin 4-1-14-0, B C Hollioake 14-2-35-2, Butcher 10-2-26-1, A J Hollioake 10-2-35-0, Saqlain Mushtaq 2-0-18-0

SURREY: First innings 147 (G M Hamilton 7 for 50)

Second innings

M A Butcher lbw b Silverwood	0
I J Ward c Vaughan b Silverwood	5
N Shahid lbw b Hamilton	39
A J Stewart c White b Hamilton	15
A D Brown c Blakey b Hoggard	0
*A J Hollioake c Silverwood b Hamilton	4
B C Hollioake b Hamilton	60
†J N Batty lbw b Silverwood	9
M P Bicknell b Silverwood	8
Saqlain Mushtaq c Hutchison b Silverwood	1
J E Benjamin not out	1
Extras (b 2)	2
Total	135

FALL OF WICKETS 1-0, 2-11, 3-47, 4-50, 5-52, 6-63, 7-117, 8-133, 9-133

BOWLING: Silverwood 14.4-6-30-5, Hutchison 8-1-34-0, Hamilton 14-7-22-4, Hoggard 11-3-26-1, Fellows 3-0-21-0.

Umpires: A Clarkson and N T Plews.

Warwicks v Leics

EDGBASTON (final day of four): Leicestershire (24pts) beat Warwickshire (6) by 73 runs

LEICESTERSHIRE: First innings 389 (D J Millns 99, B F Smith 86, M T Brimson 54 not out; T A Munton 4 for 90)

Second innings 291 for 6 dec (B F Smith 87, P V Simmons 68)

WARWICKSHIRE: First innings 276 (D R Brown 75, C C Lewis 5 for 76, P V Simmons 4 for 54)

Second innings

N V Knight c Wells b Lewis	6
M A Wagh b Millns	60
D L Hemp c Nixon b Simmons	102
A Singh c Simmons b Millns	9
†B C Lara lbw b Millns	5
D R Brown c Lewis b Millns	39
N M K Smith b Mullally	41
‡P J Piper not out	44
A F Giles c Habib b Lewis	0
T A Munton c Sutcliffe b Brimson	11
E S H Giddins b Simmons	0
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 4, nb 14)	33
Total	337

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-53, 2-87, 3-87, 4-93, 5-181, 6-244, 7-286, 8-293, 9-330.

BOWLING: Mullally 19-3-75-1, Lewis 17-5-51-2, Wells 6-1-36-0, Brimson 17-5-54-1, Simmons 10-0-50-2, Millns 14-1-60-4.

Umpires: G Sharp and J D Lloyds.

THE TIMES SATURDAY

Surrender

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ALA LEE

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Surrendering the captaincy has helped give a new lease of life to England's premier batsman

Atherton relishing challenges ahead

Authority is a source of inspiration and responsibility, pride and honour. Almost every sportsman covets it. But for those to whom it comes young, and lasts long, it can insidiously crush and debilitate. Six months after resigning the England captaincy, Michael Atherton knows the truth of this better than most.

Atherton is rejuvenated now. He looks it, plays like it and even, somewhat to his surprise, feels it. He will play for Lancashire in the NatWest Trophy final at Lord's today with a spring in his step and a sparkle in his eye that tell of a summer rich in fulfilment, free of purgatory.

It is not that Atherton disliked captaining his country, even near the emotional end of his reign. On the contrary, nobody could have devoted more of himself to the position. But it was because he put his heart and soul into the job, and still led only a modest team, that it gnawed away at him until his edges were frayed, his personality reduced.

You would not know it now. Suddenly, from being 30 going on 40, he is a lad again. This week, he divided a rainy day in Manchester between card schools, betting on the horses and a long session in the gym — a curious amalgam of Andy Capp and Arnie Schwarzenegger — before emerging from his bachelor flat for dinner with his shirt hanging fashionably loose.

He has lived alone since leaving Cambridge and remains messy, disorganised and elusively independent. No change there. But the striking thing about him now is the air of relaxed vitality, so different from the world-weary defensiveness of the captaincy survivor.

"I feel a lot of energy inside me," he said. "When you're captain, much of that is dissipated by all the worries about other people around you. After 4½ years and 50-odd games, I was tired. I can see that now, more than I could at the time."

So, it has to be asked, was he misguided to continue as captain last winter, when all his instincts had been to stand down after the Ashes series? He shrugs and pouts at the memory of a time in which he was unusually indecisive. "It may have been better, personally, to have gone earlier," he conceded. "It might have sparked a quicker return to form, for one thing."

And that is no small thing. England's best batsman, their rock of ages, averaged barely 20 against Australia and West Indies. It was lack of runs that led him to give up captaincy but it was also captaincy that led to lack of runs. There was only one way to break the circle but by doing so, and voluntarily demoting himself to the ranks, he was taking a big risk.

"By going to the West Indies as captain, and having a bad time, I'd given myself two poor series on the bounce, which you can't afford. At the start of this season, when I was still getting no runs, I was treading a very fine line. It could have been the end of me, internationally."

Such fears were triumphantly banished by almost 500 runs in five Tests and a perky return to the England one-day side — interestingly, a driving ambition of his summer. Even the recurring back trouble that forced him to withdraw from the team to play Sri Lanka, missing his first Test in 64, cannot detract from a season of rediscovered contentment.

ALAN LEE



"I'm ending the season far more certain of my position and of my game. Oddly, the technical cure came to me during a Sunday League match in May. I'd struggled like hell for runs and was really quite worried about it but I suddenly started hitting the ball down the ground. I asked myself why and, in mid-innings, I realised I was standing up a bit taller and straighter, keeping a bit stiller. I held on to those things and it came right."

Atherton believes three sessions with Graham Gooch were greatly beneficial. He also appreciates the ongoing support of David Lloyd and was anxious to emphasise the contribution of the England coach, in a week when his position was once more imperilled by his passion.

"Everybody has their faults. With 'Bumble', it's that his emotions can occasionally override cool analysis. But it's such a good thing to have a passionate coach because it makes everyone else enthusiastic. I'd rather have that than a dour bloke who is not really in it for anything but himself." If he had someone specific in mind, here, it was carefully left unsaid.

"David Lloyd supports all his players publicly and you won't find one who says otherwise. If he's got something to say to you, it will be done privately, as it should be. He made my job as captain easier and I know Stewie [Alec Stewart] feels the same. What the national team needs, more than a brilliant technical coach, is an organiser, co-ordinator, motivator — he's all those things and more.

"Look at the changes since he's come on board. The players want for nothing now and if they don't perform they can't say it's because they didn't have the back-up. From technical to fitness to psychological advice, the whole set-up has been brought in by 'Bumble' and when I say I think he's doing a terrific job I know I'm speaking for the whole team."

The admiration is mutual. Lloyd wanted Atherton in the team for the first Test against South Africa whatever his county form, faith that was vindicated by a century on the opening day. While the country will have greater recall of his steely, unbeaten 98 that won a memorable game at Trent Bridge, Atherton names the Edgbaston innings as his best of the year.

"Conditions were difficult. The ball moved as extravagantly as I've ever known in a Test match. But it was also a really vital innings for me, personally, and I felt unusually nervous beforehand. There was a lot of pressure and attention on me and I knew I had to establish myself." At Trent Bridge, conditions were less demanding but Atherton had to counter a withering spell from Allan Donald, enraged by a palpable umpiring error. Atherton gloved a lifting ball to the wicketkeeper and was adjudged not out. He still has absolutely no misgivings about standing firm.

"I'm a great believer in letting the umpires officiate. They're well paid and they must be tough enough to withstand the pressure. Equally, players must accept decisions. That one went for me, but I recall Stewie got 164 at Old Trafford and, very early on, he swept at Paul Adams and, as the ball ballooned up off the pad, he got the tiniest glove on it.

"Only Hansie Cronje, at silly point, knew for sure and Alec was given not out and got on with things. But a thick glove is no different from a thin one. The umpires make the decisions and we get on and play."

This unemotional pragmatism is typical of a man who has no time for the prima donnas of sport. He has lost his interest in football — "the overhyped played by the overpaid" — and he has changed subtly in other ways. "Sometimes, when you are very closely involved, you can be a bit one-eyed, a bit too loyal. Captaincy, with its demands, can occasionally blur the judgment. It's been interesting to stand back more dispassionately and I find I've tended to see things more clearly."

"For instance, I don't think losing to Sri Lanka was the end of the world. Defeat is never a good thing but I think there was a danger of deluding ourselves after beating South Africa. We're a bit overreliant on two bowlers and there are certain deficiencies in our side. If those are now more obvious, and can be addressed before we play Australia, then losing a game will have done us a service."

This, of course, is easier to express when you are no longer captain. Certain other things are easier, too. "I watched Alec arrive at the Oval with a huge bundle of mail and I chuckled. When you're not captain, your mail diminishes ten-fold and the phone doesn't ring half as often. I don't miss any of that."

Today, as Lancashire continue their pursuit of a treble helping of honours, Atherton returns to Lord's, where a fortnight ago he made a dashing half-century in the final of the Emirates Trophy. "I'd read in a newspaper, the same paper that said I wasn't welcome in the dressing-room any more, that my one-day career was certainly over. There's nothing quite like that for motivation.

"I was very pumped up for that innings at Lord's, wanting to take my chance and stake a claim for the World Cup. I've always felt I'm quite a decent one-day player. There's a lot more to it than crash, bang, wallop."

And that will not be a bad epitaph for Atherton, when the time comes. Not yet awhile, though, for ambitions have been invigorated. "My back isn't a worry, I've only missed one Test in eight years and it's getting no worse. So long as I can maintain the discipline to work at keeping it strong, I'll be all right. I reckon I'm good for three or four years yet and I've got the energy and desire to want to play every game for England." Starting, of course, with Australia, for which Atherton has an unexpected wish. "I hope Shane Warne is fit. I wouldn't want them to have an excuse if we beat them."



Atherton, his form returned, ambitions rekindled and his outlook positive, is much more relaxed now that he is free of the cares of leadership. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

'At the start of this season I was still getting no runs and was treading a very fine line'

Age of no concern to outsiders Derbyshire

SHOULD Derbyshire win the NatWest Trophy today, it will be a victory to rank with any in the competition's 36-year history. They have overcome Surrey and Leicestershire to get this far, without benefit of home advantage, and must now beat Lancashire, who have won the 60-over cup six times, a record, and for whom Lord's is a second home.

Few people give Derbyshire much of a chance and that is probably the way they like it. If you are a Derbyshire cricketer you get used to being overlooked when things go well, and patronised when they do not. But they are not going there simply to make up the numbers. There is an important game to win and they are capable of winning it.

Having been walloped inside two days at Old Trafford in the championship match that finished on Thursday, they do not lack incentive to give a better account of their ability. They can recall, too, that the last time they reached a one-day final, in the Benson and Hedges Cup five years ago, they beat Lancashire.

That was a hot-headed encounter in which Wasim Akram bowled a beamer at Chris Adams, who confronted him in the dining room during the lunch interval.

LORD'S DETAILS

Lancashire: Wasim Akram (captain), M A Atherton, A Flintoff, J P Crawley, M I Fairbrother, G D Lloyd, W K Hegg, I D Austin, G Chapple, G Yates, P J Martin.

Derbyshire: D G Cork (captain), M J Slater, K J Barnett, R M S Weston, M E Cassar, B L Spendlove, V P Clarke, P A J DeFreitas, K M Krikken, K Dean, G M Roberts or I D Blackwell.

Umpires: K E Palmer and G Sharp

Television: Live on BBC1

By Michael Henderson

It was on that July day in 1993 that Dominic Cork first introduced himself to a wider constituency, when he collected the man-of-the-match award for his batting. Today he leads the team out at the end of his first year as captain.

After the enmity of last season, when Derbyshire lost a captain, coach, two key players and the club chairman, they may feel they have earnt their big day out. But they must knock over Lancashire to complete their journey.

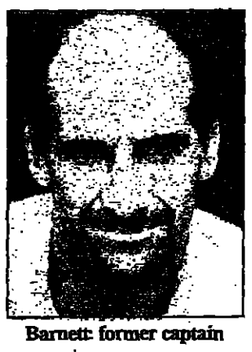
Two men who were absent in Manchester will strengthen the side today. Kevin Dean, 22, a left-arm quick bowler who has taken 65 first-class wickets this year and can consider himself unlucky not to have won selection for the England A tour, is available after recovering from a dead leg.

Michael Slater, who returned yesterday from the Australia training camp in Brisbane, will bolster the top of the order. Slater may not have scaled the heights this season as Derbyshire's overseas player, but he remains an opening batsman of class and sparkle. It was at Lord's five years ago that he made his memorable maiden Test hundred.

Cork, Slater and Dean are all key players for Derbyshire but two men will be particularly keen. Phillip DeFreitas, who spent five seasons with Lancashire, has the natural desire to excel against his old club, for whom he took five wickets in this final, against Northamptonshire eight years ago. If Derbyshire bowl first this morning, DeFreitas will run in like a man ten years younger.

Kim Barnett is beginning to run out of chances at 38 and he may well see this match as a bit of a boon. He was the junior member of the side that won the first NatWest final in 1981, and he's still around. In the semi-finals at Grace Road it was his coolness with the ball that helped Derbyshire to squeeze home.

In his years as captain he led Derbyshire to that victory in the Benson and Hedges and also won the Sunday League.



Barnett: former captain

Now that he has returned to the ranks, he is still an important player and certainly not a man to be trifled with. A Derbyshire win today would represent something of a personal triumph for this veteran.

When all this is outlined, however, it is obvious why Lancashire are so strongly favoured to win their eleventh knockout cup. They remain the kings of the shorter game, strong in batting, balanced in bowling and with an unrivalled knowledge of how to win games from unpromising situations. There are no weak links in their team.

Neil Fairbrother will become the first man to play in ten finals at Lord's, a record in accordance with his standing as the finest one-day batsman of the past decade.

The likelihood is he will collect another medal today, as Lancashire hunt the first trophy of a season that could end bountifully.

Surprise finalists rely on experience

By Michael Austin

DORSET, the unexpected winners of the western division, contest the biggest match in their 102-year history when meeting Staffordshire in the minor counties championship final at Dean Park, Bournemouth, tomorrow and Monday.

Jon Hardy, the captain, together with Nigel Cowley, 45, an off spinner, and Richard Scott, 34, are familiar with the ancient ground, having played there for Hampshire before it lost first-class status five years ago. Hardy attributes Dorset's success to improved batting, supplemented by the medium-pace bowling of Julian Shackleton, 46, and Vivian Pike, a leg spinner, their leading wicket-taker with 37 this summer.

Staffordshire are led by Steve Dean, who has scored more than 8,000 championship runs in a 17-year career. The squad includes Mark Steele, the son of the former England batsman, David, and Laurie Potter, an all-rounder who played for Kent and Leicestershire.

Staffordshire won the title in three consecutive years up to 1994, when Devon began their record-breaking sequence of four successive championships. Dorset will need all the wiles of Shackleton, the son of Derek, the former Hampshire and England bowler, to become champions for the first time.

DORSET: J J E Hardy (captain), T W Richings, G D Reynolds, T Lamb, M Swarbrick, S W D Rintoul, R J Scott, N G Cowley, V J Pike, S Dimeni, J H Shackleton

STAFFORDSHIRE (from) S J Dean (captain), C Lowndes, L Potter, R Mills, M Steele, P Wellings, R P Harvey, D R Womble, M I Humphries, D J Brock, D J P Boden, A Richardson, R M Jervis, S D Horsfall



RACING: LOWTHER CAN LIFT BIG SPRINT ON FAHEY-TRAINED THREE-YEAR-OLD

Eastern Purple to shade rivals

By Chris McGrath

TWO of the north's emerging stars can combine for their biggest success to date at Haydock today when Carl Lowther rides Eastern Purple for Richard Fahey in the Stanley Leisure Sprint Cup.

Ironically, having been told earlier in the week that he was being replaced on Bolshoi by Kieren Fallon, Lowther might have viewed the race as a buffer to the momentum of his marvellous season. After all, it was Bolshoi's Royal Ascot success, together with 62 other winners this year, that helped persuade Les Eyre to appoint Lowther as his stable jockey for next season. After picking up the ride on Eastern Purple yesterday, however, Lowther will vow that if you can't join them, beat them.

Fahey's Malton yard is also going places and he saddled Superior Premium and Eastern Purple to finish first and third respectively in the Stewards' Cup at Goodwood last month. Both run today, though there is an abyss between making the most of a good draw in handicap company and winning a group one. With rain expected to ease the going considerably, however, the big names may find their brilliance blunted.

Elnadim, indeed, may yet be withdrawn — and he will struggle to dominate from his outside draw even if allowed to take his chance — while Tamarisk and Arkadian Hero are also best on fast ground. Lochangel, who made the most of Elnadim's failure in the Nunthorpe, may struggle over a testing sixth furlong, which is also likely to find out Land Of Dreams.

By contrast, Andreyev and Tomba love the anticipated cut. Tomba's fine course record includes making the frame in this race last year, though his career best came in the Cork & Orrery Stakes at Royal Ascot, where he had Andreyev back in third.

Like Tomba, Superior Premium goes well here, but the value at 25-1 is Eastern Purple, who is 9lb better off with his stablemate for two lengths at Goodwood — where he finished strongly after being hampered. Traffic problems, fast ground and a seventh furlong have combined to thwart Eastern Purple at York since and he has valid excuses for his anonymity since winning a handicap over today's course and distance by eight lengths in the spring.

On his next start, he finished lame at York and was then hampered over an inadequate five furlongs at Sandown. He was only beaten inches when always prominent in a steadily-run race at Newbury after that and remains unexposed when produced off a strong pace in easy ground. **Eastern Purple** (3.30) has those optimum conditions today, plus a draw within reach of the stands' rail.

Fallon can get BBC's armchair punters off to a good start in the Stanley Casinos Rated Handicap, though there is a slight question mark over the stamina of **Alcazar** (2.00). But he is at least proven in soft ground.

The newcomer Bienamado, well regarded at home, encounters two horse of proven merit in the Stanley Racing Conditions Stakes. Crown Of Trees is likely to encounter softer ground here — precisely what **Mixsterthetrixster** (2.30) wanted at York last time.

Channel 4 screens four races from Epsom, where the game Rabah will find easier ground against him in the Grosvenor Casinos September Stakes. Polar Prince goes well here, but is unlikely to stay this longer trip, whereas **Crimson Tide** (4.00), stoutly bred, is likely to get the strong pace and easy ground he needs.

The downhill five furlongs of the Grosvenor Casino Southampton Handicap look ideal for **Polly Golightly** (2.55), who should not be taken on for the lead and is drawn to grab the stands' rail. She handles cut underfoot and is only 1lb higher than when pipped at York in July.

Silver Groom is well treated at his best in the Grosvenor Victoria Handicap but, on easier ground, it might be worth giving another chance to **Princess Danielle** (3.25). Though she disappointed last time, things had not gone her way for a while previously and she is on a winning mark.

Just In Time is unproven over the trip and terrain of the Connoisseur Club Handicap, whereas his contemporary, **Indimaaj** (4.35), is getting his act together.

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: CAPTAIN LOGAN
(4.05 Haydock Park)
Next best: Andreyev
(3.30 Haydock Park)

JULIAN HERBERT / ALLSPORT



Lilli Claire, right, swoops past Wenda to gain her second victory at Epsom yesterday

HAYDOCK PARK

THUNDERER
2.00 Tarxien
2.30 Crown Of Trees
3.00 Bajees
3.30 Tomba
4.05 Captain Logan
4.40 Maladerie

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.30 Crown Of Trees. 3.30 Arkadian Hero. 4.05 **CAPTAIN LOGAN** (nap).

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.00 STANLEY CASINOS RATED HANDICAP BBC1
[SHOWCASE RACE] (£8,211: 1m 3f 200yd) (9 runners)

101 (7) 601023 PERFECT PARADIGM 14 (BF,CD,F,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 4-9-7 L Dettori 117
102 (5) 14-300 BADLESMERE 17 (B,D,F,G) (Exors late Lord Sondes) P Cole 4-9-5 T Quinn 102
103 (2) -52211 ROKEBY BOWL 16 (D,F,G) (P Mellon) I Balding 6-9-2 A Nicholls (5) 97
104 (9) 5104 ALCAZAR 22 (S) (Repard/Melrose/Pawle/Stokes) J Dunlop 3-8-10 K Fallon 104
105 (3) 002025 GIVE ME A RING 7 (F,G) (G Reed) C Thornton 5-8-10 Dean McKeown 120
106 (8) 141050 TARXIEN 17 (CD,G,S) (Ginge Racing Partnership) K Burke 4-8-8 D Holland [129]
107 (4) 661151 CARBURTON 57 (C,D,F,G,S) (Bison Materials) J Glover 5-8-7 N Callan (5) 110
108 (6) 2/U1-4 SHOUK 91 (C,S) (Fittocks Stud Ltd) L Cumani 4-8-7 G Sparkes (7) 102
109 (1) 215 RED RAMONA 77 (D,G) (J Wolfenden) R Charlton 3-8-5 T Sprake 75

Long handicap: Carburton 8-5, Shouk 8-1

BETTING: 7-2 Perfect Paradigm, 4-1 Shouk, 5-1 Rokeby Bowl, 6-1 Alcazar, Carburton, 8-1 Tarxien, 10-1 Give Me A Ring, Red Ramona, 14-1 Badlesmere

1997: MEETING ABANDONED — FUNERAL OF DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

FORM FOCUS Perfect Paradigm 4¼l 3rd of 9 to Invermark in handicap at Chester (1m 5f 89yd, good to soft). Rokeby Bowl beat Jaazim 1l in 14-runner handicap at York (1m 3f 195yd, firm); previously beat Tough Leader 1½l in 9-runner handicap at Epsom (1m 4f 10yd, good to firm) with Tarxien (10lb better off) 9¼l 5th. Alcazar 3¼l 4th of 7 to Secret Archive in handicap at Newbury (1m 3f 5yd, good to firm). Give Me A Ring 5l 5th of 12 to Infatuation in handicap at Newmarket (1m 2f, good to firm); previously 1l 2nd of 12 to Supreme Sound in handicap at York (1m 2f 85yd, firm) with Badlesmere (5lb better off) 20l 11th. Tarxien 17l 12th of 21 to Turning in handicap at York (1m 5f 194yd, firm). Carburton beat Eagle's Cross 2l in 6-runner handicap at Chester (1m 4f 66yd, good to firm). Shouk 7¼l 4th of 10 to Bay Of Islands in handicap at Doncaster (1m 4f, good). Red Ramona 3¼l 5th of 6 to Dark Moondancer in 3yo stakes at Ascot (1m 4f, good).

ROKEBY BOWL is in good fettle and can complete a treble

2.30 STANLEY RACING CONDITIONS STAKES BBC1
(2-Y-O: £6,869: 1m 30yd) (4 runners)

201 (1) 1 CROWN OF TREES 17 (F) (Sheikh Mohammed) D Loder 8-12 L Dettori 50
202 (3) 13 MIXSTERTHETRIXSTER 56 (BF,S) (M Burke) T Easterby 8-12 J Fortune [87]
203 (4) BIENAMADO (J Tollan & T McCaffery) P Chapple-Hyam 8-7 J Reid –
204 (2) WEET FOR ME (E Weetman (Haulage & Storage)) R Hollinshead 8-7 D Holland –

BETTING: 10-11 Crown of Trees, 7-4 Mixsterthetrixster, 11-2 Bienamado, 16-1 Weet For Me

FORM FOCUS Crown Of Trees beat Secret's Out neck in 5-runner 2yo stakes at Kempton (7f, good to firm). Mixsterthetrixster 1¼l 3rd of 4 to Tayil in 2yo stakes at York (6f 214yd, firm). Bienamado Bien Bien colt, half-brother to 2 winners in France. Weet For Me Warning colt out of 1½m winner Naswara.

CROWN OF TREES has a good opportunity to follow up his Kempton victory

COURSE SPECIALISTS							
TRAINERS	Wins	Rns	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
B Meehan	8	31	25.8	T Quinn	11	47	23.4
P Chapple-Hyam	12	47	25.5	T Sprake	15	74	20.3
J Dunlop	29	117	24.8	R Hills	19	99	19.2
R Fahey	6	28	21.4	L Dettori	18	109	16.5
J Gosden	24	116	20.7	J Reid	15	94	16.0
J Glover	5	27	18.5	K Fallon	18	130	13.8

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating

3.00 STANLEY LEISURE MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,020: 7f) (12 runners)

301 (6) 00 ALANA'S CAVALIER 34 (Three R's) R Hollinshead 9-0 N Callan (5) 15
302 (9) BAJEES (M al-Maktoum) D Loder 9-0 L Dettori –
303 (2) CALEDONIAN COLOURS (I Allan & A Ferguson) Sir M Stoute 9-0 M J Kinane –
304 (7) 40 CROWN SECRET 21 (Lawrence/Merchack/Vaughan/Williams) P Harris 9-0 C Lowther 51
305 (5) 0 EFFANDEMM 134 (F Johnson) Miss L Perratt 9-0 D Holland –
306 (1) ENTERTAINER (Royal Ascot Racing Club) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 J Reid –
307 (3) 0 GRAND MAITRE 29 (R Scully) J Dunlop 9-0 R Hughes [63]
308 (4) OTAHUNA (J Graham) R Hollinshead 9-0 Dean McKeown –
309 (10) REGAL EXIT (B Buckley) M Channon 9-0 T Quinn –
310 (2) RUMINATE (P Green) Mrs J Ramsden 9-0 J Fortune –
311 (11) 4 HECKLE 43 (Aston House Stud) T Easterby 8-9 L Charnock 51
312 (F) KAROWNA 34 (Holding Partnership) B McMahon 8-9 L Newton 49

BETTING: -2 Grand Maitre, 5-1 Entertainer, 7-1 Caledonian Colours, 10-1 Crown Secret, 12-1 others.

3.30 STANLEY LEISURE SPRINT CUP BBC1
[SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE]
(Group I: £73,900: 6f) (13 runners)

401 (8) 031341 ANDREYEV 8 (D,F,G,S) (J Palmer-Brown) R Hannon 4-9-0 R Hughes 102
402 (4) 111046 BOLSHOI 16 (F,G,S) (Mrs D Brown) J Berry 6-9-0 K Fallon 117
403 (2) 204206 CRETAN GIFT 27 (B,D,F,G,S) (T Clarke) N Littmoden 7-9-0 J Quinn 120
404 (1) 4-2310 ELNADIM 16 (BF,D,F,G) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 4-9-0 R Hills [135]
405 (12) 003111 SUPERIOR PREMIUM 35 (CD,G,S) (J Parsons) R Fahey 4-9-0 J Fortune 106
406 (9) 3-4410 TOMBA 27 (CD,G,S) (J Good) B Meehan 4-9-0 M Tebbutt 106
407 (11) -40240 ARKADIAN HERO 16 (D,F,G) (M Tabor/Mrs J Magnier) L Cumani 3-8-12 M J Kinane 120
408 (10) 100535 EASTERN PURPLE 16 (B,CD,F,S) (T Chiang) R Fahey 3-8-12 C Lowther 124
409 (5) 12-012 TAMARISK 58 (D,F,G) (Highclere Thoroughbred Racing) R Charlton 3-8-12 T Sprake 127
410 (3) 4-1100 YORKIES BOY 16 (F,S) (Mrs M Beddis) B McMahon 3-8-12 T Quinn 105
411 (13) 212231 LOCHANGEL 16 (D,F,G) (J Smith) I Balding 4-8-11 L Dettori 122
412 (7) -18000 DAUNTING LADY 37 (G,S) (E Nagell-Erichsen & T Dale) R Hannon 3-8-9 J Reid 113
413 (6) 4-4010 LAND OF DREAMS 16 (D,F,G) (M al-Maktoum) M Johnston 3-8-9 D Holland 107

BETTING: 4-1 Elnadim, 9-2 Lochangel, 5-1 Tomba, 11-2 Arkadian Hero, 6-1 Tamarisk, 9-1 Andreyev, 11-1 Bolshoi, 12-1 Land Of Dreams, 14-1 Superior Premium, 25-1 others

1997 (run on Friday): ROYAL APPLAUSE 4-9-0 M Hills (15-8 fav) B Hills 9 ran

FORM FOCUS Andreyev beat My Best Valentine 2½l in 9-runner group 3 stakes at Deauville (6f, good), previously 2¾l 4th of 8 to March Star in group 3 stakes at Leopardstown (6f, good to firm) with Cretan Gift (4lb better off) 4¾l 6th. Superior Premium beat Ansellman 1½l in 29-runner handicap at Goodwood (6f, good) with Eastern Purple (4lb better off) 3l 3rd. Tomba 11l last of 12 to Seeking The Pearl in group 1 stakes at Deauville (6f 110yd, good to firm), previously beat Oyhim Diamond ½l in 12-runner group 2 stakes at Ascot (6f, soft) with Andreyev (levels) ¾l 3rd and Cretan Gift (levels) 1¾l 4th. Eastern Purple 2l 5th of 6 to Bold Fact in stakes (listed) at York (6f 214yd, firm). Tamarisk 2l 2nd of 17 to Elnadim (4lb better off) in group 1 stakes at Newmarket (6f, firm) with Arkadian Hero (levels) 2¼l 4th and Bolshoi (4lb better off) 3¾l 7th, previously beat Arkadian Hero (10lb better off) 2½l in 7-runner stakes (listed) at Lingfield (6f, good) with Tomba (13lb better off) 3¾l 4th. Lochangel beat Sainte Marine 1l in 17-runner group 1 stakes at York (5f, firm) with Bolshoi (levels) 3l 6th, Arkadian Hero (levels) 3¼l 8th, Land Of Dreams (levels) 3¼l 9th, Elnadim (levels) 5¾l 11th and Yorkies Boy (levels) 9¾l 16th.

TOMBA, unlucky in the race last year, can gain compensation

4.05 STANLEY RACING HANDICAP (£6,093: 7f 30yd) (16 runners)

501 (4) 500001 ALWAYS ALIGHT 25 (F,S) (M Nelmes-Crocker) K Burke 4-10-0 K Fallon 87
502 (3) 40-065 GRANNY'S PET 7 (F) (Mrs D Arbib) P Cole 4-10-0 T Quinn 87
503 520611 ALMUHIMM 12 (D,F) (M Burke's 5th Family Settlement) E Dunlop 6-9-13 R Hills 95
504 53030- MR SPONGE 308 (D,F) (P Mellon) I Balding 4-9-11 A Nicholls (5) 77
505 2-0010 Q FACTOR 7 (CD,F,G,S) (H Colks) D Haydn Jones 5-9-10 N Callan (5) 79
506 04-212 CAPTAIN LOGAN 42 (V,D,F) (Lucayan Stud) D Loder 3-9-6 L Dettori 97
507 (5) 010562 CYBERTECHNOLOGY 12 (D,F,G,S) (E Pick) Mrs J Cecil 4-9-5 J Reid 89
508 (8) 552100 ADJUTANT 38 (D,F) (J Good) B Meehan 3-9-5 M J Kinane 97
509 (13) 2103-0 BERNARDO BELLOTTO 7 (G) (R Green (Fine Paintings)) M Bell 3-9-2 J Fortune 75
510 (6) -66460 VASARI 7 (G) (A Tuckerman) M Channon 4-9-1 C Lowther 79
511 (7) 003412 TILER 5 (D,F,S) (Mrs C Robinson) M Johnston 6-9-1 D Holland 99
512 (12) 400520 ZUHAIR 8 (F) (C Bigley Partnership Ltd) D McCain 5-8-13 W J O'Connor [104]
513 (16) 425100 QUIZ SHOW 8 (D,S) (Lostford Manor Stud) R Hannon 3-8-11 R Hughes 86
514 (2) 135050 VICE PRESIDENTIAL 28 (D,S) (A Clarke) M Bielby 3-8-8 P McCabe 85
515 (11) 001 POLISH SPIRIT 56 (D,G) (Mrs I Palmer) B Millman 3-8-8 T Sprake 73
516 (14) 5-1000 RIOJA 56 (S) (Mrs S Clegg) T Tate 3-6-7 J Quinn 84

BETTING: 9-2 Almuhimm, 5-1 Captain Logan, 8-1 Always Alight, Cybertechnology, Adjutant, Tiler, 10-1 Q Factor, 12-1 others

4.40 STANLEY LEISURE GROUP HANDICAP (£5,768: 5f) (13 runners)

601 (6) 400401 WESTCOURT MAGIC 14 (CD,G,S) (K Hodgson) M W Easterby 5-10-0 L Charnock 82
602 (2) -10000 SPEED ON 21 (V,D,F,S) (P Deal) H Candy 5-9-13 K Fallon 80
603 (7) 026034 HOPPING HIGGINS 17 (D,G,S) (P Kelly & Partners) R Hannon 3-9-12 R Hughes 82
604 (5) 001500 CLASSY CLEO 17 (C,D,F,G,S) (J Abbey) P Evans 3-9-11 C Cogan (7) 102
605 (4) 665000 THE GAY FOX 18 (D,F,S) (G Whitaker) B McMahon 4-9-10 L Newton 89
606 (1) 100514 MUNGO PARK 28 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs H Carr) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-6 J Fortune 101
607 (11) 100025 DAAWE 15 (V,D,F,G,S) (Mrs A Mallinson) J Glover 7-9-5 S D Williams 99
608 (10) 013310 OCKER 8 (CD,F,G,S) (J Teasdale) Mrs N Macauley 4-9-5 P McCabe 93
609 (3) 051121 GORETSKI 24 (D,F,G,S) (P Smith) N Tinkler 5-9-1 C Lowther 94
610 (12) 523000 PIGEON 14 (F,S) (W Barker) D Barker 3-8-12 Jenny Benson (7) 87
611 (13) 361265 MALADERIE 12 (V,BF,D,F) (R Bretaun) M Channon 4-8-3 T Quinn 96
612 (8) 000002 SQUIRE CORRIE 7 (B,D,F,G,S) (Miss N Thesiger) D Chapman 6-8-2 J Quinn [120]
613 (9) 441110 PALACEGATE TOUCH 28 (B,C,D,F,G,S) (A Parr) J Berry 8-7-11 P Fessey 115

BETTING: 4-1 Goretski, 9-2 Westcourt Magic, 8-1 Mungo Park, Ocker, 10-1 Hopping Higgins, Daawe, Squire Corrie, 12-1 others

EPSOM

THUNDERER
1.50 Butterwood
2.25 Little Gem
2.55 Polly Golightly
3.25 Brandon Jack
4.00 Rabah
4.35 Galapino
5.10 Take A Turn

Timekeeper's top rating: 4.00 **RABAH**.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN STRAIGHT) SIS
DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

1.50 GROSVENOR CASINO PORTSMOUTH MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,420: 6f) (8 runners)

1 (2) 0 COMPENSATION 21 (D Fisher) M Jarvis 9-0 P Robinson 13
2 (3) 40 INDIAN SWINGER 11 (Nissing Tree Partnership) J Eustace 9-0 A Daly (3) 18
3 (8) 02 PAL OF MINE 20 (G Howard-Spink) R Hannon 9-0 Dane O'Neill [87]
4 (6) 40 BUTTERWOOD 22 (G Strawbridge) I Balding 8-9 R Cochrane 53
5 (7) 6444 IVOR'S INVESTMENT 19 (W Perry) D Elsworth 8-9 N Pollard (5) 64
6 (4) 0 LADY MELBOURNE 8 (Hertford Offset Ltd) M Johnston 8-9 J Carroll 24
7 (5) MILNE'S DREAM (T Milne) G Lewis 8-9 Paul Eddery –
8 (1) SKI LODGE (Mrs S Collins) C Brittain 8-9 F Lynch –

BETTING: 13-8 Pal of Mine, 7-2 Butterwood, 4-1 Ivor's Investment, 8-1 Lady Melbourne, 12-1 Ski Lodge, 14-1 Compensation, Indian Swinger, 16-1 Milne's Dream

1997: MEETING ABANDONED — FUNERAL OF DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

2.25 GROSVENOR CASINO BRISTOL MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,436: 1m 114yd) (7 runners)

1 (7) 0 FORT SUMTER 70 (P Mellon) I Balding 9-0 R Cochrane 23
2 (5) 000 HIGH CLARITY 63 (B) (C Sumner) R Johnson Houghton 9-0 S Whitworth 38
3 (4) 6 LOVE BLUES 77 (M Doyle) M Johnston 9-0 J Carroll 26
4 (2) 54 OPEN ARMS 10 (S Manana) C Brittain 9-0 Paul Eddery 41
5 (6) 66 SUDDEN SQUALL 38 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0 Pat Eddery 39
6 (1) 2434 LITTLE GEM 8 (M Subail) R Hannon 9-9 Dane O'Neill [68]
7 (3) 0 MANCALA 9 (N Aersey) P Cole 8-9 C Rutter –

BETTING: 9-4 Little Gem, 11-4 Sudden Squall, 9-2 Open Arms, 5-1 Fort Sumter, 7-1 Love Blues, 14-1 Mancala, 25-1 High Clarity

2.55 GROSVENOR CASINO SOUTHAMPTON HANDICAP C4
(£6,970: 5f) (10 runners)

1 (7) 2104-0 SHARP PEARL 60 (B,D,F) (D Yardy) P R Webber 5-9-10 S Whitworth 71
2 (10) 131631 EMPEROR NAHEEM 7 (D,F) (Mrs E Meehan) B Meehan 3-9-8 Pat Eddery 85
3 (2) 532301 BATCHWORTH BELLE 12 (D,F) (Mrs D Price) E Wheeler 3-9-3 A Daly (3) 92
4 (8) 102304 POLLY GOLIGHTLY 14 (B,D,F,G,S) (D Sykes) M Blanshard 5-8-13 C Rutter 88
5 (9) 0-5040 CAERFILLY DANCER 14 (F) (A Davies) R Guest 4-8-12 J Carroll 75
6 (4) 460000 FACILE TIGRE 12 (D,F) (D Chursion) S Dow 3-8-7 P Doe (5) 89
7 (5) 202016 MRS MALAPROP 7 (D,F,G) (M Foy) M Channon 3-8-6 A Mackay 93
8 (1) 550113 SKY RED 12 (BF,D,F,G) (T Neill) M Bell 3-8-3 M Fenton 99
9 (3) 420016 SWYNFORD DREAM 29 (D,F,G) (Qualitair Holdings) J Hetherton 5-7-13 J Lowe 89
10 (6) 0d3000 FORGOTTEN TIMES 24 (V) (J Crook) K Ivory 4-7-10 N Carlisle [108]

Long handicap: Forgotten Times 7-3.

BETTING: 3-1 Emperor Naheem, 7-2 Polly Golightly, 5-1 Mrs Malaprop, Sky Red, 6-1 Batchworth Belle, Swynford Dream, 16-1 Facile Tigre, 20-1 Caerfilly Dancer, Forgotten Times, Sharp Pearl

FORM FOCUS Sharp Pearl 7¼l 10th of 14 to Ellens Lad in handicap at Newmarket (5f, firm) with Swynford Dream (2lb worse off) 8¼l 12th; previously 1¼l 4th of 13 to Swan At Whalley in handicap at Chester (5f 16yd, good) with Polly Golightly (18lb worse off) 1½l 5th. Emperor Naheem beat Square Come neck in 11-runner lady amateur riders at Newmarket (5f, good to firm). Batchworth Belle beat Eastern Prophets short head in 9-runner handicap at Brighton (5f 59yd, good to firm) with Sky Red (1lb better off) ¾l 3rd and Facile Tigre (5lb better off) 3¼l 7th. Polly Golightly 2½l 4th of 11 to Westcourt Magic in handicap at Chester (5f 16yd, good to soft). Mrs Malaprop 2¼l 6th of 18 to Masha-Il in handicap at Goodwood (6f, good to firm). Swynford Dream 2½l 6th of 22 to Double Oscar in handicap at Ascot (5f, good to firm) with Forgotten Times (6lb worse off) 2¾l 8th.

The well-drawn EMPEROR NAHEEM looks a likely sort in a tricky handicap

3.25 GROSVENOR VICTORIA CASINO HANDICAP C4
(£3,550: 1m 2f 18yd) (10 runners)

1 (10) 0-1003 ANAK-KU 20 (BF,D,G,S) (HRH Sultan Ahmad Shah) Miss Kelleway 5-10-0 S Sanders 97
2 (9) 110050 BRANDON JACK 14 (BF,D,F,G,S) (R Michaelson) I Balding 4-9-13 S Whitworth 89
3 (2) 15 WILLY WILLY 21 (F) (Mrs G Tricks) H Candy 5-9-11 C Rutter 76
4 (8) 020-00 BATSWING 42 (S) (R Withers) B Millman 3-9-7 M Fenton 63
5 (6) 501050 EDAN HEIGHTS 29 (D,F,G,S) (S Dow) S Dow 6-9-6 P Doe (5) 87
6 (5) 00-100 AUTUMN COVER 7 (F,G) (G Alexander) P Hedger 6-9-3 A McCarthy (3) 82
7 (7) 533130 ZURS 7 (F) (Glendale Partnership Ltd) J R Poulton 5-8-12 A Whelan 85
8 (4) 204164 CHIEF CASHIER 9 (CD,F) (Surgical Spirits) G Balding 3-8-9 A Daly (3) 68
9 (3) 506466 PRINCESS DANIELLE 11 (D,G,S) (M Wickham) W Muir 6-8-2 Martin Dwyer 92
10 (1) 000002 SILVER GROOM 24 (BF,D,F,S) (Silver Darling Ptnrs) M Channon 8-7-13 A Mackay [99]

BETTING: 4-1 Anak-Ku, 9-2 Brandon Jack, 6-1 Silver Groom, 7-1 Willy Willy, Edan Heights, Princess Danielle, 8-1 Chief Cashier, 10-1 others

FORM FOCUS Anak-Ku 5l 3rd of 6 to Vola Via in handicap at Lingfield (1m 2f, good to firm). Brandon Jack 12l 8th of 10 to Orsay in handicap at Sandown (1m 2f, good to firm), previously 5¾l 5th of 9 to Mister Benjamin in handicap at Ascot (1m 2f, good to firm) with Edan Heights (1lb worse off) 20l last. Willy Willy 13l 5th of 6 to Mowelga in stakes at Newbury (1m 4f, good to firm). Zurs 7l 7th of 10 to Silk St John in handicap at Windsor (1m, good to firm) with Autumn Cover (4lb worse off) 14l last. Chief Cashier 2¼l 4th of 12 to Benny Gifts in handicap at Folkestone (1m 1f 149yd, firm). Princess Danielle 3¼l 6th of 15 to Persian Sabre in handicap at Lingfield (1m 2f, good to firm). Silver Groom 1½l 2nd of 11 to Renown in handicap at Salisbury (1m 1f 198yd, good to firm)

PRINCESS DANIELLE is a tentative choice in an open contest

4.00 GROSVENOR CASINOS SEPTEMBER STAKES C4
(Group III: £18,570: 1m 4f 10yd) (7 runners)

1 (6) -41450 POLAR PRINCE 18 (C,F,G) (Mrs C Stevenson) M Jarvis 5-9-7 P Robinson 105
2 (2) 1-6633 CRIMSON TIDE 7 (F,G,S) (C Wright & Partners) J Hills 4-9-5 M Hills 92
3 (1) 3-2163 LORD OF MEN 20 (F,G,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 5-9-3 Paul Eddery 102
4 (7) 11-201 FERNY HILL 7 (D,F) (Mrs M Van Bakel) W Muir 4-9-0 Martin Dwyer 84
5 (4) 6-5364 IVAN LUIS 76 (D,F,G) (L Gaucci) M Bell 4-9-0 M Roberts 104
6 (3) 406250 PUNISHMENT 17 (D,G,S) (A Richards) K Cunningham-Brown 7-9-0 Dane O'Neill 105
7 (5) -61112 RABAH 18 (BF,D,F,G) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 3-8-8 Pat Eddery [128]

BETTING: 6-4 Rabah, 4-1 Ferny Hill, 5-1 Ivan Luis, 7-1 Polar Prince, Lord Of Men, 8-1 Crimson Tide, 25-1 Punishment.

1997 (run on Friday): MAYLANE 3-8-5 M Roberts (3-1) A Stewart 6 ran

FORM FOCUS Polar Prince 4¼l 7th of 8 to One So Wonderful in group 1 stakes at York (1m 2f 85yd, firm). Lord Of Men 4½l 3rd of 11 to Running Stag in group 3 stakes at Deauville (1m 2f, good to soft). Ferny Hill beat The Fly 1¼l in 4-runner stakes at Windsor (1m 3f 135yd, good to firm). Ivan Luis 1¾l 4th of 10 to Ungaro in group 1 stakes at San Siro (1m 4f, good to firm). Rabah 4l 2nd of 6 to Sea Wave in 3yo group 2 stakes at York (1m 3f 195yd, firm)

RABAH has an excellent chance provided the ground does not get too soft

4.35 CONNOISSEUR CLUB HANDICAP C4
(£5,602: 1m 4f 10yd) (12 runners)

1 (7) 0-4630 HOH EXPRESS 23 (D,G,S) (Mrs J Egan) P R Webber 6-10-0 Dane O'Neill 96
2 (4) 123116 FLYING EAGLE 27 (CD,F,G,S) (T Maycock) R Simpson 7-10-0 M Gallagher 75
3 (5) -03025 LEADING SPIRIT 24 (D,F,G) (Induna Racing) C Wall 6-9-13 R Cochrane 102
4 (3) 134413 MONTECRISTO 38 (D,F,G,S) (R Guest) R Guest 5-9-13 N Pollard (5) 91
5 (1) 2-0221 JUST IN TIME 8 (F) (Mrs P Merrick) T Mills 3-9-10 S Sanders 84
6 (12) 0-1000 ASSURED GAMBLE 29 (CD,G,S) (E Grimstead Honda) C Brittain 4-9-8 P Robinson 96
7 (10) 363544 FAHS 5 (D,G) (Cay Industrial Supplies Ltd) G Lewis 6-9-8 Paul Eddery 99
8 (2) 105402 INDIMAAJ 30 (BF,D,S) (Awad Racing Syndicate) J Dunlop 3-9-7 Pat Eddery 96
9 (9) 00-035 TIGER LAKE 14 (D,F) (B Solomon & Miss J Wood) S Dow 5-8-12 M Roberts 95
10 (6) 400010 GALAPINO 5 (V,D,F) (Glendale Partnership Ltd) M Channon 5-8-8 A Mackay 101
11 (11) 065338 ARTIC COURIER 56 (CD,F,G) (A Hardy) D Cosgrove 7-8-8 J Lowe [105]
12 (8) 166-60 GLOW FORUM 84 (D,F,G,S) (Miss J Anstee & Ptnrs) L Montague Hall 7-8-1 P Doe (5) 92

BETTING: 4-1 Just in Time, 5-1 Indimaaj, 6-1 Fahs, 7-1 Galapino, 9-1 Assured Gamble, 10-1 Leading Spirit, Tiger Lake, 11-1 Flying Eagle, Montecristo, 12-1 Arctic Courier, Hoh Express, 20-1 Glow Forum.

1997 (run on Friday): DANCE SO SUITE 5-9-13 T Quinn (4-1 fav) P Cole 15 ran

FORM FOCUS Leading Spirit 9¾l 5th of 8 to Highwayman in handicap at Sandown (1m 6f, good to firm). Just In Time beat Classic Manoeuvre 15l in 6-runner 3yo maiden stakes at Goodwood (1m 1f 192yd, good to firm). Fahs 3¾l 4th of 11 to Nautical Star in amateur handicap at Epsom (1m 4f, good to firm); previously 7½l 4th of 9 to Rokeby Bowl in handicap at Epsom (1m 4f, good to firm) with Flying Eagle (levels) 9½l 6th. Indimaaj neck 2nd of 6 to Rakeeb in 3yo handicap at Haydock (1m 3f 200yd, good). Tiger Lake 9¼l 5th of 8 to High And Mighty in handicap at Sandown (1m 6f, good to firm); previously 2½l 3rd of 8 to Warning Reef in handicap at Ascot (1m 4f, good to firm) with Assured Gamble (2lb better off) 24l 7th. Galapino 3¾l 7th of 15 to Cherokee Flight in handicap at Chepstow (1m 2f, good to firm)

INDIMAAJ is worth the chance to atone for his narrow Haydock defeat

5.10 GROSVENOR CASINO READING HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,566: 1m 114yd) (15 runners)

1 (3) -12546 BLESS 'IM 15 (G) (J Leek) R Hannon 9-7 Dane O'Neill 78
2 (6) -42231 TRANSYLVANIA 23 (F) (Capt J Macdonald-Buchanan) J Dunlop 9-4 Pat Eddery 69
3 (2) -30120 PAY ON RED 5 (C,F) (T Neill) P Cole 9-3 R Cochrane 73
4 (9) 43431 MY BOLD BOYO 35 (G) (Mrs W Protheroe-Beynon) D Elsworth 9-2 N Pollard (5) 91
5 (1) 608145 TAKE A TURN 8 (V,S) (Sheet & Roll Convertors) Miss G Kelleway 9-2 P Fredericks (7) 77
6 (10) -00400 LOVE ACADEMY 56 (F) (M Doyle) M Johnston 9-2 J Carroll 78
7 (15) 004 SAFE SHARP JO 43 (Mrs G Marchant) M Jarvis 8-11 P Robinson 53
8 (5) 218200 GREAT MELODY 84 (V) (Crown Pkg & Mailing) D Cosgrove 8-10 S Sanders 71
9 (4) 501430 PRIDE OF MY HEART 16 (F) (N Harris) I Balding 8-8 M Roberts 76
10 (8) 065150 IMANI 11 (F) (R Khan) C Lewis 8-5 A McCarthy (3) 96
11 (7) 22-401 PRIMARY COLOURS 14 (D) (Saracen Racing) J Pearce 8-4 G Bardwell [101]
12 (14) 000144 WATER FORCE 17 (BF,CD,F) (B Attenborough) G Balding 7-13 Martin Dwyer 85
13 (11) 400250 COMEOUTOFTHEFOG 31 (T Beacroft) A McNae 7-10 J Lowe 88
14 (12) 300580 GENIUS 17 (Normandy Developments (London)) S Dow 7-10 P Doe (5) 94
15 (13) 000055 SERGEANT IMP 14 (S) (W Mann) P Mitchell 7-10 R Ffrench 72

Long handicap: Comeoutofthefog 7-9, Genius 7-8, Sergeant Imp 7-0.

BETTING: 7-2 Transylvania, 6-1 My Bold Boyo, 8-1 Pay On Red, Great Melody, 10-1 Bless 'im, Take A Turn, Pride Of My Heart, Primary Colours, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS							
TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
W Muir	4	14	28.6	Pat Eddery	19	94	20.2
J Dunlop	11	43	25.6	S Sanders	15	84	17.9
M Jarvis	5	20	25.0	R Ffrench	3	21	14.3
M Johnston	10	42	23.8	M Roberts	10	73	13.7
D Elsworth	5	27	18.5	A Daly	3	22	13.6

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Epsom: 2.25 High Clarity. Haydock Park: 2.00 Badlesmere. 4.05 Captain Logan. Thirsk: 3.45 Hadayik, 4.50 Shart. 5.20 Scintillating Sound, Brave Maple, Supacalifragilistik. Stratford: 2.15 Whistling Buck. Wolverhampton: 7.00 Tajne. 8.30 Millionformerthyr. 9.00 Pearl Anniversary

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Bath (first race 2.00), Hamilton Park (2.15)
TUESDAY: Leicester (2.10), Lingfield Park (2.00), Newcastle (2.20).
WEDNESDAY: Doncaster (C4, 1.30), Kempton Park (1.45)
THURSDAY: Doncaster (C4, 1.30), Chepstow (2.15), Newton Abbot (2.25)
FRIDAY: Doncaster (C4, 1.30), Goodwood (BBC, 2.15), Worcester (2.20)
SATURDAY: Doncaster (C4, 2.00), Goodwood (BBC, 2.15), Bangor (1.50), Worcester (2.20)

Flat meetings in bold

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9/2 Lochangel
5/1 Tomba
11/2 Arkadian Hero
6/1 Tamarisk
9/1 Andreyev
11/1 Bolshoi
12/1 Land Of Dreams
14/1 Superior Premium
25/1 Eastern Purple
33/1 Cretan Gift
40/1 Yorkies Boy
50/1 Daunting Lady

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THIRSK

THUNDERER
2.10 Murphy's Gold. 2.40 Turtle Valley. 3.10 Dispol Rock. 3.45 Cantina. 4.15 **COLWAY RITZ** (nap). 4.50 Madmun. 5.20 Mukarrab. 5.50 Verposen.

GOING. GOOD SIS
DRAW. 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.10 CELLHIRE SELLING STAKES
(£2,705: 1m) (18 runners)

1 1035 MURPHY'S GOLD 7 (D,F,G) R Fahey 7-9-6 R Winston (3) 10
2 3130 MARGARET'S DANCER 26 (D,S) J Eyre 3-9-1 K Darley 2
3 00-0 CENSOR 196J (D,F) D Nicholls 5-9-0 Alex Greaves 6
4 0036 EXECUTIVE CHOICE 47 B Ellison 4-9-0 T Williams 11
5 040' HONEYSCHOICE 15J (D,F) M Hammond 5-9-0 J Weaver 5
6 6000 MARYLEBONE 3 M Wane 4-9-0 R FitzPatrick (5) 17
7 0005 ZAAHIR 4 W Storey 4-9-0 G Parkin 12
8 0040 FINAL CLAIM 9 J FitzGerald 3-8-9 G Duffield 4
9 5000 REGENCY TIMES 8 (B) T Easterby 3-8-9 A Culhane 14
10 0/4 SIGER WATER 14 W Brisbourne 5-8-9 A Garth 13
11 0542 SNAPPY TIMES 25 (B) M Dods 3-8-9 Dale Gibson 16
12 0060 WHISTLE TEST 29 (B) S Woods 3-8-9 M Day 1
13 0-00 ANDITZ 24 J Eyre 3-8-4 D Sweeney 9
14 000 CAPRIOARA 31 J L Harris 3-8-4 S Righton (7) 3
15 0 DAUNTING ASSEMBLY 24 B Murray 3-8-4 K Hodgson 8
16 EARLY PURPLE J J O'Neill 3-5-4 W Supple 18
17 0000 ESSANDESS 63 J Eyre 3-8-4 R Lappin 7
18 SILENT VOTE S Bowring 3-8-4 F Norton 15

6-1 Murphy's Gold, 13-2 Margaret's Dancer, 7-1 Marylebone, Final Claim, 9-1 Snappy Times, 10-1 Censor, Zaahir, Regency Times, 12-1 others.

2.40 BUSINESS FURNITURE CENTRE HOLDINGS LTD MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £4,055: 1m) (9)

1 FAIRTOTO Mrs J Ramsden 9-0 O Pears 5
2 82 JUST NAME IT 34 Sir M Stoute 9-0 K Darley 3
3 5 MOSQUERO 15 J Gosden 9-0 G Hind 4
4 00 MOUTAHDDEE 29 M Tregoning 9-0 R Perham 2
5 0 PINMOOR HILL 5 Mrs J Ramsden 9-0 J Weaver 7
6 0 SURVIVAL VENTURE 21 S Woods 9-0 R Mullen (3) 9
7 6620 TURTLE VALLEY 42 (BF) J Dunlop 9-0 G Carter 1
8 04 BOHEMIA 40 J Fanshawe 8-9 A Clark 8
9 FANTAZIA M Johnston 8-9 M Henry 6

5-2 Just Name It, 11-4 Turtle Valley, 4-1 Fantazia, 8-1 Mosquero, 10-1 Fairtoto, Bohemia, 14-1 Moutahddee, 16-1 others.

3.10 LLOYDS PRIVATE BANKING MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(Div I: 2-Y-O: £2,513: 7f) (12)

1 3 DISPOL ROCK 34 P Calver 8-10 K Darley 1
2 0 MY BROADSTAIRS JOY 38 J J O'Neill 8-10 O Pears 9
3 40 QUEDEX 43 E L James 8-10 G Duffield 12
4 0 OFF HIRE 20 C Smith 8-6 A Clark 5
5 5300 ZECHARIAH 8 J Eyre 8-6 R Winston (3) 7
6 0 RENAISSANCE LADY 26 T Watson 8-5 Joanna Badger (7) 8
7 3 TRUFFLE 56 (BF) J Fanshawe 8-5 G Carter 4
8 CUTE CAROLINE G Holmes 8-1 Dale Gibson 3
9 0 FLY LIKE A BIRD 56 S Woods 8-1 R Mullen (3) 2
10 2026 HIGHLY FANCIED 17 Miss L Perratt 8-1 W Supple 11
11 3542 JUST FOR YOU JANE 12 (B) T Naughton 8-1 M Henry 10
12 06 SPRINGS 30 J Spearing 8-1 F Norton 6

6-4 Truffle, 9-2 Just For You Jane, 13-2 Highly Fancied, 7-1 Dispol Rock, 8-1 Zechariah, 12-1 Quedex, 20-1 Renaissance Lady, Cute Caroline, 25-1 other.

3.45 YORKSHIRE YEOMANRIES FILLIES HANDICAP
(£6,325: 1m) (18)

1 0501 NORTHERN BLESSING 42 (D,F) P Harris 4-10-0 A Culhane 15
2 3013 CANTINA 14 (D,F) A Bailey 4-9-8 G Faulkner (3) 9
3 4-10 TAJAWUZ 38 (BF,F) M Tregoning 3-9-6 R Perham 5
4 0100 DELIRIOUS MOMENT 7 (D,G) P R Webber 4-9-4 D Sweeney 10
5 5030 HADAYIK 15 (V,F) P Walwyn 3-9-3 M Henry 2
6 0460 MY DESPERADO 5 (CD,G) L Lloyd-James 5-9-2 K Hodgson 12
7 2604 CARAMBO 12 J Eyre 3-9-2 K Darley 8
8 3552 RIBBLESDALE 37 (B,S) J Dunlop 3-9-0 G Carter 1
9 0623 QUEENS CONSUL 10 (CD,F,G,S) B Rothwell 8-8-13 G Duffield 18
10 /23- MAROZIA 303 (BF) J Gosden 4-8-13 G Hind 4
11 0425 HEVER GOLF PASSION 11 (BF) T Naughton 3-8-13 A McGlone 11
12 0081 PRIDE OF PENDLE 3 (CD,F,G,S) M Wane 9-8-13 (6ex) J Weaver 7
13 16-0 DESERT SAND 20 (S) J Hanson 3-8-8 E Johnson 13
14 0-60 MIDYAN QUEEN 121 (G) R Hollinshead 4-8-3 R Lappin 3
15 3307 DISCRIMINATION 8 (F) Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-3 W Supple 16
16 0434 PREMIUM PRINCESS 10 J J Quinn 3-9-0 Dale Gibson 6
17 1004 SWAN ISLAND 14 (D) W Brisbourne 4-7-11 J McAuley (7) 14
18 1120 DANCING EM 10 (BF,CD,F,S) T Easterby 3-7-10 N Kennedy 17

7-1 Queens Consul, Pride Of Pendle, 8-1 Cantina, Tajawuz, Ribblesdale, 10-1 Northern Blessing, Marozia, Hever Golf Passion, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Dunlop, 11 winners from 29 runners, 37.9%. Sir M Stoute, 13 from 37, 35.1%; J Gosden, 7 from 27, 25.9%; P Walwyn, 4 from 17, 23.5%; J Fanshawe, 6 from 28, 21.4%; M Johnston, 18 from 95, 18.9%; A Bailey, 3 from 16, 18.8%; Mrs J Ramsden, 15 from 105, 14.3%.

JOCKEYS: J Weaver, 28 winners from 117 rides, 23.9%; G Duffield, 18 from 94, 19.1%; A McGlone, 4 from 21, 19.0%; K Darley, 22 from 135, 16.3%; Alex Greaves, 9 from 76, 11.8%; G Carter, 9 from 80, 11.3%.

4.15 TOTE HAMBLETON CUP
(Handicap: £7,795: 1m 4f) (18)

1 5165 RUSSIAN RULER 23 (D,G) A Jarvis 4-10-0 D Sweeney 12
2 3450 ROYAL CASTLE 42 (D,F) M Tregoning 4-10-0 K Darley 13
3 0325 COLWAY RITZ 16 (G,S) W Storey 4-9-11 J McAuley (7) 10
4 0502 CASHMERE LADY 12 (C,D,F,G,S) J Eyre 6-9-9 R Lappin 8
5 5040 KALININI 28 R Fahey 4-9-5 R Winston (3) 1
6 2584 LANCER 9 (V,D,F,G) J Pearce 6-9-3 R Price 6
7 6-53 WOSAITA 80 (BF) J Dunlop 3-9-2 G Carter 7
8 1/0- FAIRLY SHARP 113J (D,F,G) J Mackie 5-9-2 J Fanning 18
9 5000 SIMPLE IDEALS 30 N Tinkler 4-9-1 Kim Tinkler 15
10 0125 CITY GAMBLER 8 (BF,F,G) G Bravery 4-9-0 N Day 4
11 0121 OUR PEOPLE 7 (F) M Johnston 4-8-13 R FitzPatrick (5) 14
12 3146 HOUSE OF DREAMS 9 (D,F,S) G M Moore 6-8-13 A Culhane 17
13 2120 MR FORTYWINKS 111 (D,G,S) J Eyre 4-8-12 O Pears 2
14 -660 TYPHOON EIGHT 56 (D,G) D Nicholls 6-8-11 Alex Greaves 11
15 1013 HASTA LA VISTA 9 (B,D,F,G,S) M W Easterby 8-8-8 T Lucas 9
16 0213 FLYING BOLD 11 (BF,F,S) W Muir 3-8-5 W Supple 16
17 6456 ADVANCE EAST 11 (S) M Dods 6-7-12 Dale Gibson 5
18 0330 SEA YA MAITE 2 S Bowring 4-7-11 F Norton 3

7-1 Cashmere Lady, Wosaita, 8-1 Our People, Hasta La Vista, 10-1 Royal Castle, Colway Ritz, City Gambler, House Of Dreams, 12-1 others.

4.50 CHARTERHOUSE STAKES (£4,614: 6f) (14)

1 032 MADMUN 36 M Tregoning 4-9-0 K Darley 7
2 0000 WILD CITY 11 (B) R Marvin 4-9-0 S Righton (7) 14
3 500 BAHAMIAN PIRATE 7 D Nicholls 3-8-12 Alex Greaves 8
4 0 BANK HOUSE 5 G Kelly 3-8-12 S Finnamore (7) 9
5 62 CARNBREA FIRSTLOVE 8 W Haggas 3-8-12 G Duffield 11
6 6 JACK TO A KING 20 J Balding 3-8-12 O Pears 1
7 33-2 SHART 16 (V,BF) J Gosden 3-8-12 G Hind 2
8 STACCATO C Thornton 3-8-12 J Fanning 10
9 0 BRIGHT EYES 14 J Wainwright 5-8-9 W Supple 4
10 00 GEEGEE EMMARR 7 S Gollings 5-8-9 A Culhane 13
11 00- VERASICA 455 J Berry 4-8-9 G Carter 5
12 00-0 CALLIRAM 33 A Dickin 3-8-7 A McGlone 12
13 -345 MOET 27 J Eyre 3-8-7 D Sweeney 6
14 26 TYPHOON GINGER 7 G Woodward 3-8-7 S D Williams 3

5-4 Shart, 5-2 Madmun, 6-1 Typhoon Ginger, Carnbrea Firstlove, 10-1 others.

5.20 CANCER RESEARCH HANDICAP (£3,318: 5f) (24)

1 -000 ABOVE BOARD 10 J Hanson 3-9-12 E Johnson 10
2 4000 SHARP HINT 17 D Nicholls 3-9-10 Alex Greaves 13
3 2000 AJNAD 7 (B) R Marvin 4-9-10 S Righton (7) 3
4 -300 PLEASURE 106 A Smith 3-9-10 O Pears 18
5 0400 HALSE COPSE 14 J G Smyth-Osbourne 3-9-8 R Perham 14
6 2000 ONE TO GO 30 J Berry 3-9-7 K Darley 8
7 0600 JAVIR 43 D Nicholls 3-9-6 M Richardson 24
8 6500 SLEEPY BABY 9 W Kemp 3-9-4 R FitzPatrick (5) 5
9 0323 MUKARRAB 7 D Chapman 4-9-3 A Culhane 17
10 5020 WHACKER-DO 33 R Hollinshead 3-9-3 R Lappin 2
11 3006 HAYBURNER 35 (B) M W Easterby 3-9-0 T Lucas 15
12 0020 DUBAI NURSE 9 F Durham 4-9-0 A McGlone 1
13 4-50 BURNDEN DAYS 17 Miss J Craze 3-9-0 S Webster 20
14 030 SCINTILLATING SOUND 31 (B) S Bowring 3-8-10 C Teague (3) 16
15 4020 BLARNEY PARK 28 C Dwyer 3-8-9 W Supple 11
16 0403 SYLVAN DANCER 17 (V,BF) G Bravery 4-8-7 N Day 9
17 4000 BRAVE MAPLE 14 (B) S C Williams 3-8-7 G Carter 12
18 0/05 LADY BENSON 17 W Brisbourne 5-8-6 A Garth 4
19 00/0 OUR ALBERT 65 I Donnelly 5-8-6 J Fanning 6
20 5042 HARVEY'S FUTURE 42 P Eccles 4-8-6 A Polli (5) 23
21 000- DIBOLA 295 J Wainwright 3-8-5 G Parkin 7
22 0000 SUPACALIFRAGILISTIK 24 (V) J Balding 3-8-3 G Duffield 19
23 000- RISKY FLIGHT 276J A Smith 4-7-12 J McAuley (7) 22
24 0300 COLLACAR 22 (B) S Bowring 3-7-11 F Norton 21

6-1 Mukarrab, 8-1 Sharp Hint, Ajnad, 10-1 Hayburner, Harvey's Future, 12-1 others.

5.50 LLOYDS PRIVATE BANKING MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(Div II: 2-Y-O: £2,513: 7f) (11)

1 360 ARCHIE BABE 21 J J Quinn 8-10 A Culhane 5
2 00 ARTHURS KINGDOM 45 A Jarvis 8-10 D Sweeney 8
3 RIVERSDALE J FitzGerald 8-10 J Weaver 6
4 30 VERPOSEN 7 J Pearce 8-6 R Price 1
5 0 REBECCA JAY 128 M Meacher 8-5 G Duffield 3
6 046 STREAK FREE 7 G Bravery 8-5 N Day 10
7 5066 ALMAYMONA 26 S Mellor 8-1 Dale Gibson 11
8 6264 DILLUS 8 B Rothwell 8-1 W Supple 2
9 0020 GYPSY MUSIC 14 G Oldroyd 8-1 R Mullen (3) 4
10 LIVELY PROJECT M Dods 8-1 T Williams 7
11 00 MEG 26 C Wall 8-1 G Hind 9

3-1 Streak Free, 7-2 Almaymona, 5-1 Archie Babe, 6-1 Verposen, 8-1 others.

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هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES SATURDAY

Tait's stren

Wannabe to cheer N

CURRAGH TOMORRO

4.10 MOYGLARE STUD STAKES

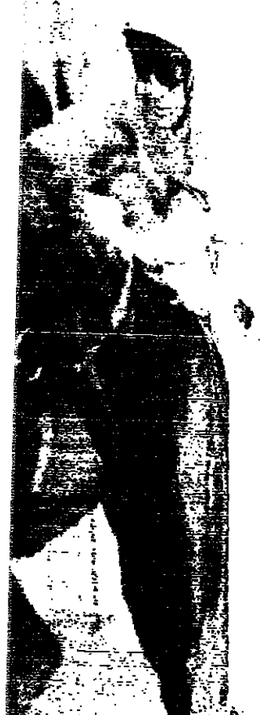
YESTERDAY'S RES

Epsom

Haydock Park

Tait's formula mixing strength and sympathy

Tradition of New Zealand excellence maintained by Burghley favourite





SIMON BARNES

Talking horse

Emily (aged 11) lent me her copy of Blyth Tait's book, *Eventing Insights*, to read on the train to Burghley. Emily had confided to me when we hacked out last weekend that she intended to win Burghley herself — *and* Badminton *and* the Derby *and* the King George *and* the Arc *and* possibly the American Triple Crown as well, all in the same year, and probably on the same horse.

"Sounds like me, when I was a boy," Tait said. Emily rides like a little centaur, which also sounds not unTaitlike. A brilliant rider with a very pronounced taste for winning things: he won the individual gold in the three-day event at the last Olympics; he was individual world champion in 1990 and he has a string of lesser honours as long as your arm, including winning at Gatcombe the other week.

He went into Burghley this week — cross country today, showjumping tomorrow — with two horses, Chesterfield and Aspyring, as joint-favourites. His No 1 horse, Ready Teddy, is being prepared for another tilt at the world championship in Rome next month.

And — really rather remarkably in so amiable a sport — Tait has been at the centre of a spat at Burghley this week. The victim of seriously inconsistent marking in the dressage, he spoke — to audible intakes of breath around the sport — of the possibility of withdrawing Chesterfield from competition and not risking him over a huge course without a serious chance of some kind of result.

Success-orientated, you might say. And obviously a wonderful rider, but riding skill is not the heart of the matter. So he says, anyway, and it is an intriguing thought. Because in all the horsey sports, it is the sight, and perhaps still more the thought of immense horsemanly skills that delight me.

Mark Todd's cross country ride round Badminton on a horse he had sat on for the first time that week remains one of my finest sporting memories. I watched with awe, on the Butch Cassidy principle. "I couldn't do that, could you do that?" I have ridden round cross-country courses myself, you see, and I know what it is like. So it means something special, to see infinitely greater, infinitely more skilful riders doing the same thing over infinitely greater, infinitely more terrifying fences. Naturally, I look first at the riding skills. I am captivated, always, by the Centaur Factor.

But perhaps that is an error of vision. Tait is inclined to stress the matters of mental strength, mental preparation: the matter of perfectly honed desire. Such a thing matters in sport. I am not a tennis player and I have never looked at Boris Becker's service and marvelled along Butch Cassidy lines. What impresses me is the number of times he served an ace when he needed one. The matter of mental strength, in short. At Wimbledon, the top players are pretty much on a level in terms of tennis ability. But some have top-20 minds, some have top-five minds and some have the minds of champions.

And at Burghley this week, moving among the eventers — the best bunch in sport — I wondered what it is that divides the very good riders indeed from the champions. Because the fact is that anyone who can ride round a four-star cross-country course possesses the Centaur Factor in a very high degree.

I am not sure how much of a difference there is between riding beautifully and riding effectively for victory. But Tait is convinced that there is one. He has made a career of that difference. He is a New Zealander, part of the tradition of Kiwi excellence in the sport of three-day eventing. He looks the grimmest fellow in competition, swarthy face set in lines of concentration beneath a rider's skull-cap. When not in the middle of these fraught, vital ten-minutes passages — passages on which the life of an eventer turn — he is the most easy-natured man you could wish to meet, easy smile and a distinctly frivolous tie chosen for the pre-event vet's inspection.

Perhaps these twin natures are a part of the secret of this mental strength thing in sport: the ability to switch the grimness on and off as required. And perhaps that is especially the secret in three-day eventing, or all the horsey sports. You don't want to school your horses in a daily mood of constant pressure, manic expectation, loony hunger for success.

"Physical preparation is the best way to create confidence," Tait said, not making it totally clear whether he was talking about the mental strength of riders or of horses. But how far can the two be separated? An awful lot comes down to the desire of the rider, not just to ride well, to defeat the course-builder, to put in beautifully judged clear rounds — but actually to win. That is rather Tait's subject: in talk, in action.

There are many brilliant riders and there are a few riders who tend to win more than most. Clearly, there is something more than pure horsemanship involved. "Staying tough," Tait said. "That's a very big part of it, because the sport gives you far more knocks than ups.

"I've had moments when I want to give up, really want to give up and stop competing. It's then that you really learn about mental strength." He reckons that Kiwi riders have a good early lesson in hardness, one learnt by all the overseas event riders who come to England.

"We have to sell up, get into debt, travel across the world — just to be able to start. That makes you pretty hungry, pretty committed. It hardens your mental attitude."

Kiwis love a Kiwis-against-the-world situation, and it has made the top New Zealand riders a tight bunch, very long on mutual support. That has given them a good deal of success as a team. But in three-day eventing, there is only one team that really counts and that is the tightest team in all sport: the team of rider and horse.

Back to mental attitude again, and, naturally, the notion of partnership. Tait is on the small side at 9½st and likes a horse that comes forward and asks questions of his strongest asset, his sympathy. He doesn't like a horse that needs constant driving: "Other riders can get the best out of a horse like that but I prefer one that is light-footed and easy. Free," he said.

Ready Teddy, the horse he won on in Atlanta, and will take to the world equestrian games, is "cocky, self-assured, full of himself". And naturally, he is naturally the best beloved. Tait talked about the relationship between the love you have for a horse and the amount of success the horse has given you. Yet another matter of two perfect inextricables.

Love and success. Ability and desire. Mental strength and riding skill. Mental strength of rider and mental strength of horse. Hunger for victory and the Centaur Principle. Tait signed Emily's book and then it was time to kick on. Another horse or two to ride; another championship or two to win.

'Staying tough, that's a big part of it because there are plenty of knocks'

MICHAEL POWELL



Tait gives Chesterfield an encouraging hug before presenting him for the veterinary inspection

Wannabe Grand to cheer Noseda

JEREMY NOSEDA can train a group one winner with his first runner in Ireland when Wannabe Grand tackles the Moyglare Stud Stakes at the Curragh tomorrow (Our Irish Racing Correspondent writes).

British-trained fillies have won the Moyglare Stakes five times in the Nineties already and, after failing by only 1¾ lengths to concede 2lb to the 1,000 Guineas favourite, Bint Allayl, in the Lowther Stakes at York, Wannabe Grand looks good enough to become the sixth.

The Cherry Hinton winner will face soft ground for the first time though as the going is yielding and more rain is expected.

The bookmakers rate Edabiya best of the home team, but trainer John Oxx said yesterday: "Her half-sister, Edabiyla, loves soft ground, but this filly doesn't like to bend her knees." So Polaire could prove better value.

CURRAGH TOMORROW BBC2

4.10 MOYGLARE STUD STAKES
(Group I: 2-Y-O fillies: £84,300: 7f) (15 runners)

1 (8) 1 ANTHEM OF LOVE 34 (G) (*Moyglare Stud Farm*) *D Weld 8-11* ..... M J Kinane
2 (14) 0 BROWNSFIELD 49 (Brownsfield Syndicate) A P O'Brien 8-11 ..... J J Quinn
3 (15) 2121 CAMARGO 70 (C,S) (*Mrs J Magnier*) *D Weld 8-11* ..... P Shanahan
4 (3) 4 CRYSTAL DOWNS 32 (Mrs T Hyde) A P O'Brien 8-11 ..... J A Heffernan
5 (10) 1 EDABIYA 14 (D,G) (H H Aga Khan) J Oxx 8-11 ..... J P Murtagh
6 (11) 114 ENEMY ACTION 17 (F,G) (Cliveden Stud) H Cecil (68) 8-11 ..... K Fallon
7 (5) 16 FEAR AND GREED 28 (C,S) (M Begley) T Stack 8-11 ..... J P Spencer
8 (7) 41 FLOATING ASENDA 109 (F) (*Moyglare Stud Farm*) D Weld 8-11 ..... D P McDonogh
9 (4) 1 GRANDOISE IDEA 12 (B,G) (D Dobson) J Bolger 8-11 ..... K J Manning
10 (9) 031 HULA ANGEL 18 (D,F) (*J R Fleming*) B Hills (68) 8-11 ..... M Hills
11 (2) 3 PINK CORAL 14 (Mrs T Hyde) A P O'Brien 8-11 ..... F M Berry
12 (6) 6143 POLAIRE 28 (D,F) (*M Hartigan*) *K Prendergast* 8-11 ..... S Craine
13 (1) 651333 RAINBOW AMETHYST 8 (S) (Miss K Magnier) A P O'Brien 8-11 ..... R Hughes
14 (13) 12 SUNSPANGLED 14 (D,S) (M Tabor) A P O'Brien 8-11 ..... Pat Eddery
15 (12) 421142 WANNABE GRAND 17 (F,G) (B McAllister) J Noseda (68) 8-11 ..... Pat Eddery

BETTING: 4-1 Edabiya, 9-2 Wannabe Grand, 6-1 Enemy Action, 7-1 Anthem Of Love, 8-1 Camargo, Sunspangled, 12-1 Hula Angel, Pink Coral, Polaire, 14-1 others.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Epsom

Going: good (good to soft in straight)

2.10 (7f) 1, Lois Of Magic (Dane O'Neill, 1-2 fav); 2, Maple (10-1); 3, Lady Lazarus (11-1); 9 ran. 2l, 5l. R Hannon. Tote: £1.40, £1.10, £1.70. £2.40. DF: £4.50. CSF: £6.68.

2.40 (6f) 1, Parisien Star (N Day, 11-2); 2, Golden Rainbow (12-1); 3, Swell Betty (6-1). Magic Memories (4th) 9-4 fav, 9 ran. 4l, 1l. G Lewis. Tote: £9.10, £1.90, £2.90, £1.90. DF: £70.30. CSF: £82.04. Tricast: £371.69.

3.15 (1m 2f 18yd) 1, Generous Libra (K Fallon, 8-15 fav); 2, Shadoof (7-2); 3, Sothus (9-1) 4 ran. 4l, 4l. J Dunlop. Tote: £1.40. DF: £1.80. CSF: £2.46.

3.45 (1m 114yd) 1, Lili Claire (T Sprake, 4-1); 2, Wenda (6-1); 3, Ramooz (4-9 fav). 4 ran. 1¼l, 3l. D Elsworth. Tote: £5.00. DF: £8.30. CSF: £21.53.

4.20 (1m 114yd) 1, Silverado (Dane O'Neill, 6-4 fav); 2, John Bowcher Music (4-1); 3, Kingsfold Blaze (13-2). 6 ran. ¾l, 2l. R Hannon. Tote: £2.00; £1.10, £2.10. DF: £4.60. CSF: £6.16.

4.50 (7f) 1, Mutabassir (F Norton, 11-2); 2, Ca'D'Oro (16-1); 3, Matpeka (12-1); 4, Live Project (7-1). Big Ben 5-1 fav. 16 ran. NR: Eia-Andrulla. ¾l, 1¼l. G L Moore. Tote: £7.80; £2.30, £3.00, £2.60. £1.60. DF: £66.40. CSF: £89.83. Tricast: £961.98.

Placepot: £447.20 Quadpot: £46.10.

Haydock Park

Going: good

2.00 (5f) 1, Truth Seeker (*S Sanders*, 13-8 fav); 2, Acacula (7-2); 3, Sharp Edge Boy (66-1). 17 ran. 3l, 1¼l. *P Makin*. Tote: £2.60; £1.30, £1.80, £14.30. DF: £3.80. CSF: £6.32.

2.30 (1m 30yd) 1, River Times (*J Fortune*, 4-1, Richard Evans's nap); 2, Canta Ke Brave (7-2); 3, Lucky Gilardi (20-1). Lennox Lass (5-2 fav, 17 ran. Hd, 4l. T Easterby. Tote: £4.70; £1.70, £2.30, £6.30. DF: £25.30. CSF: £17.07.

3.00 (6f) 1, Faraway Lass (L Dettori, 6-4 fav); 2, Eastern Lyric (10-1); 3, Gurkha (9-1). 7 ran. NR: Flak Jacket. 1¼l, 2l. Lord Huntingdon. Tote: £1.50; £1.50, £3.10. DF: £5.60. CSF: £9.59. Flak Jackes (4-1) withdrawn, not under orders — Rule 4 applies to all bets, deduct 20p in pound.

3.35 (6f) 1, Mammas F-C (*P Fessey*, 5-1); 2, Hadeqa (7-1). 21. Robber Red (2-1 fav). 22 ran. Hd, dd-ht. J Berry. Tote: £5.60; £2.30, Robber Red £1.30, Hadeqa £2.20. DF: Mammas F-C and Robber Red £2.30. Mammas F-C and Hadeqa £8.50. CSF: Mammas F-C and Robber Red £7.69. Mammas F-C and Hadeqa £20.23.

4.05 (1m 3f 200yd) 1, Norcroft Joy (P McCabe, 13-2); 2, Creon (6-1 fav); 3, Majestic (10-1); 4, Stone Beck (25-1). 19 ran. ¾l, 1¾l. M Ryan. Tote: £6.20, £1.70, £1.70, £2.80, £7.10. DF: £17.60. Trifecta: £613.10. CSF: £40.92. Tricast: £376.31.

4.40 (6f) 1, Blushing Grenadier (C Teague, 16-1); 2, Sycamore Lodge (4-1 fav); 3, Petite Danseuse (20-1). 4, Most Respectful (8-1). 24 ran. 1¾l, ¾l. S Bowring. Tote: £19.30; £2.60, £1.50, £5.00, £1.80. DF: £26.70. CSF: £98.86. Tricast: £1,257.45.

5.10 (1m 2f 120yd) 1, Prairie Falcon (Mr C B Hills, 7-2); 2, Shaftisheyes (3-1 fav); 3, Gone For A Burton (12-1). 10 ran. Sh hd, ¾l. B Hills. Tote: £4.10; £1.40, £1.30, £3.20. DF: £5.90. CSF: £12.26. Tricast: £98.69. Polar Champ finished third but after a stewards' inquiry was disqualified.

Jackpot: £54,575.10.

Placepot: £20.80 Quadpot: £5.20.

Sedgefield

Going: good

2.20 (5m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Oriel Lad (F Leahy, 7-2 fav); 2, Bold Top (14-1); 3, Follow De Call (4-1). 12 ran. NR: Dino's Mistral. 2½l, 2l. Miss K Milligan. Tote: £2.90, £1.40, £4.70. £2.20. DF: £31.50. CSF: £46.14. Tricast: £340.54.

2.50 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, The Micklotonian (R Supple, 5-2 fav), 2, Good Day (11-4); 3, De Oralle (12-1). 13 ran. NR: Awash. 2l, 23l. C Grant. Tote: £3.20; £1.10, £1.30, £3.60. DF: £3.30. CSF: £9.44.

3.25 (2m 5f ch) 1, Stylish Interval (P Niven, 7-4 fav); 2, Highland View (3-1), 3, Somerby (12-1). 13 ran. 14l, 10l. D Smith. Tote: £2.60; £2.10, £1.20, £2.40. DF: £4.20. CSF: £6.15.

3.55 (2m 5f ch) 1, Uncle Bart (R Johnson, 4-1); 2, Le Denisian (7-1); 3, The Toaster (5-4 fav). 7 ran. NR: Most Rich. Sh hd, 4l. Miss L Russell. Tote: £3.70; £1.90, £4.20. DF: £22.90. CSF: £27.85. Tricast: £48.27.

4.30 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Petersen House (J Callaghan, 4-11, 2, Diara (2-1); 3, Feel A Line (6-1). Smart Spark (9) 11-8 fav. 7 ran. 1¼l, 15l. G Moore. Tote: £2.70; £2.40, £1.20. DF: £5.80. CSF: £12.19.

5.00 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Sandaber (G Lee, 5-2 fav); 2, Kierchem (4-1); 3, Alpine Hideaway (7-2). 8 ran. 6l, 19l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £12.70. Tricast: £32.26.

Placepot: £24.10 Quadpot: £6.70.

STRATFORD

THUNDERER

2.15 Valiant Dash. 2.45 Polden Pride. 3.15 Big Wheel. 3.50 Gutteridge. 4.20 Elusive Star. 4.55 Baba Au Rhum. 5.30 Mo's Boy.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.15 BRENDAN FITZGEORGE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,516: 2m 6f 110yd) (10 runners)

1 /22- VALIANT DASH 384F (F,G,S) J Goldie 12-11-10 .. E Callaghan
2 055- SMUGGLER'S POINT 103 (B,D) J Budgs 8-11-0 .. M Batchelor (3)
3 9350 ROYAL CIRCUS 7F (F,G) P Hall 8-10-8 .. E Husband
4 9P44 NIGHT TIME 5 (C,F,G) N Howe 5-10-7 .. G Shanks (3)
5 6-53 KILLING TIME 5 (F,S) A Carroll 7-10-5 .. J Goldstein (3)
6 0546 WHISTLING BUCK 5 (B,S) B Llewellyn 10-10-5 .. Michael Brennan
7 -600 BAVASKAR 35 (B,F) A Streeter 9-10-3 .. L Aspell
8 P5P- MARK MISTRESS 11F (V) P Evans 4-10-0 .. J Tizzard
9 -P00 MR GOODHILLY 29 F Jordan 8-10-0 .. K Hibbert (7)
10 P00- AUNTY NESSIE 147 J Gaffie 6-10-0 .. R McGrath

3-1 Valiant Dash, 4-1 Smuggler's Point, 5-1 Night Time, 6-1 Killing Time, 7-1 Royal Circus, 8-1 Whistling Buck, 10-1 Bavaskar, 14-1 others

2.45 JO CHAMBERS LAST HANDICAP CHASE (£3,652: 3m) (8)

1 10-6 AFTER THE FOX 42 (F,G,S) N Hawke 11-11-10 .. J Tizzard (3)
2 1P42 POLDEN PRIDE 10 (F,S) G Balding 10-11-10 .. B Fenton
3 521 CHANGE THE REIGN 21 (CD,F) Mrs A Johnson 11-11-0 .. T J Murphy
4 -UF3 GEMS LAD 7 (F,G) Mrs S Smith 11-11-0 .. R Widdison (5)
5 212- JOHNS THE BOY 315 (D,F,G,S) N Mason 12-11-0 .. Mr G Coulter
6 2PP- SWING QUARTET 12M (BF,D) *N Twiston-Davies 8-11-0* .. *C Llewellyn*
7 -333 DANDIE DMP 29 (C,D,F,G,S) A Carroll 10-10-13 .. B Powell
8 425U MOUNTHENRY STAR 14 (D,F) J L Weiber 10-10-9 .. R Thornton

3-1 Polden Pride, 4-1 Swing Quartet, 5-1 Change The Reign, 13-2 Johns The Boy, 7-1 After The Fox, 8-1 Gems Lad, Dandie Imp, 10-1 Mounthenry Star.

3.15 STILL MATERIALS HANDLING JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £2,318: 2m 110yd) (12)

1 12 CHARLIE'S GOLD 14F (F) A Kelleway 11-3 .. A Bates (3)
2 BIG WHEEL 31F (B) M Pipe 10-10 .. A P McCoy
3 ESTOPPED 89F M Quinn 10-10 .. L Harvey
4 LAMBRINI LAD 30F A Bailey 10-10 .. S Wynne
5 LAUREN'S LAD 23F *B Llewellyn 10-10* .. Michael Brennan
6 SAXON VICTORY 31F Mrs V Wiaux 10-10 .. R Thornton
7 P TEMPER LAD 21 P Hobbs 10-10 .. R Dunwoody
8 ISABELLA 151F Miss C Caroe 10-5 .. D Leahy
9 LADY EIL 14F B Smart 10-5 .. C Llewellyn
10 *LIBERALIS 25F G Charles-Jones 10-5* .. *R Stedhouse (5)*
11 D MISS LACROIX 21 R Hollinshead 10-5 .. Barry Lyons
12 SECRET TANGO 201F J R Best 10-5 .. L Aspell

5-4 Big Wheel, 5-2 Charlie's Gold, 7-1 Saxon Victory, 10-1 others.

3.50 WARWICKSHIRE NOVICES CHASE (£3,496: 2m 5f 110yd) (7)

1 13P1 INFLUENCE PEDLER 35 (F,G) Mrs K George 6-11-7 .. *R Massey (3)*
2 3P-5 GLENTORALDA 29 M Jackson 8-10-12 .. Mr M Rimmer
3 20-0 *SUTTERIDGE 21 (V,B,S) P Evans 8-10-12* .. *R Johnson*
4 43S/ HAUNTING MUSIC 599 (S) Mrs A Pewter 10-10-12 .. M A Fitzgerald
5 034- SILENT CRACKER 150 (S) M Pitman 6-10-12 .. R Farrant
6 /4F- ACETYLENE 119P (BF) R Alner 6-10-7 .. J Culloty
7 P65- STRATTON FLYER 173 H Howe 8-10-7 .. G Sheikh (5)

5-2 Gutteridge, 3-1 Influence Pedler, 4-1 Haunting Music, 5-1 Silent Cracker, 7-1 Acetylene, 12-1 Stratton Flyer, 20-1 Glentoralda

4.20 HARRY PINFOLD HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,868: 2m 110yd) (8)

1 -111 OUT RANKING 20 (D,F,S,S) M Pipe 6-12-0 .. A P McCoy
2 2311 MASTER MILLFIELD 25F (D,F) R Hodges 6-11-9 .. R Dunwoody
3 PU4 DESERT FIGHTER 7 (BF,D,F) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-6 .. P Niven
4 120- COMPASS POINTER 25F (D,S) J Eustace 5-10-8 .. S McNeill
5 25-4 *ELUSIVE STAR 7F (D,G) Mrs M Reveley 8-10-2* .. G Lee
6 P40- BUNGEE JUMPER 197 (B,D,F) P Bradley 8-10-2 .. R Johnson
7 60U SWEET TRENTINO 23F (F) M Tate 7-10-0 .. C Llewellyn
8 200- CABOCHON 205 (D,G,S) J Joseph 11-10-0 .. L Harvey

2-1 Master Millfield, 9-4 Out Ranking, 5-2 Desert Fighter, 13-2 Compass Pointer, 7-1 Elusive Star, 25-1 Sweet Trentino, Cabochon, 33-1 Bungee Jumper

4.55 1152 AM CAPITAL GOLD SPORT HANDICAP CHASE (£3,470: 2m 1f 110yd) (7)

1 35-3 CAPTAIN KHEDIVE 10 (D,F) N Twiston-Davies 10-12-0 .. G Llewellyn
2 3-11 YOURETTERBELIEVEIT 21 (CD,F) S Sherwood 9-11-5 .. G Bradley
3 124- BABA AU RHUM 28F (G) L Williams 6-11-4 .. A P McCoy
4 6213 CASPIAN BELUGA 21 (F,S) S Keogh 10-11-4 .. P Holley
5 /0-4 EASTERN MAGIC 63 (CD,F,G,S) G Barnett 10-10-13 .. R Farrant
6 1211 VINTAGE TAITTINGER 14 (CD,F,S) J Gosden 5-10-9 .. A Dobbin
7 3P2- BATTERY FIRED 114 (G) N Mason 9-10-5 .. D Gallagher

5-2 Vintage Taittinger, 11-4 Youretterbelieveit, 9-2 Captain Khedive, 5-1 Baba Au Rhum, 7-1 Caspian Beluga, 10-1 Battery Fired, 16-1 Eastern Magic.

5.30 LADY GODIVA NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,220: 2m 110yd) (9)

1 0341 MO'S BOY 21 (G) Mrs S Smith 7-11-3 .. R Widdison (5)
2 D0- CASH ON DEMAND 184 R Peacock 5-10-10 .. W Marston
3 R00- FIRST LIGHT 200 J J Quinn 6-10-10 .. L Wyer
4 6-00 KING OF SWING 10 V Soane 6-10-10 .. S McNeill
5 30-4 SHARDANTE 15 J Jefferson 5-10-10 .. E Callaghan
6 404- SPOOF'S MY GAME 186 J Mullins 5-10-10 .. M A Fitzgerald
7 0-0 SECOND HELPING 70 *J R Best 4-10-6* .. *L Aspell*
8 P8-0 PROPER PRIMITIVE 35 C Drewe 5-10-5 .. R Thornton
9 P6F- SISTER JIM 10 *R J Price 8-10-5* .. *C Llewellyn*

5-4 Mo's Boy, 3-1 Shardante, 5-2 First Light, 5-1 Spoof's My Game, 25-1 King Of Swing, Second Helping, Sister Jim, 33-1 others.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

7.00 Kailey Goddess. 7.30 Over The Moon. 8.00 Zobaida. 8.30 Consultant. 9.00 Avanti Blue. 9.30 Dancing Mystery.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

7.00 *DEAUVILLE* MAIDEN HANDICAP (£2,637: 1m 100yd) (13 runners)

1 3350 KAILEY GODDESS 14 (B) R Armstrong 5-10-0 .. M Tebbutt 4
2 -342 AL'S FELLA 169 (B) P Cole 3-9-13 .. T Quinn 11
3 5360 PURSUIT VENTURE 26 S Woods 3-9-11 .. A Clark 9
4 -300 JOLLYHACK 32 J O'Shea 3-9-8 .. V Slattery 12
5 5043 THE ARTFUL DODGER 15 R Williams 3-9-6 .. D Biggs 3
6 6-03 LAKE TAAL 7 Mrs J A Camacho 3-9-5 .. L Charnock 13
7 4324 BANK ON HIM 54 G L Moore 3-9-4 .. J Quinn 8
8 -050 EPWORTH 22 L Barratt 4-9-4 .. T Sprake 6
9 3089 WYN B C Dwyer 3-9-4 .. F Lynch 7
10 4442 *MAINKATO 106 D Cosgrove 4-9-3* .. *N Callan (5) 10*
11 -366 SHIFTING 10 C Thornton 3-9-3 .. Dean McKeown 1
12 0000 TAJINE 29 (B) P Harris 3-9-2 .. C Lowther 5
13 0003 ARRY MARTIN 14 W Muir 3-9-2 .. D Holland 2

9-2 Lake Taal, 11-2 Kailey Goddess, 7-1 Wyn, Arry Martin, 8-1 others.

7.30 SANTA ANITA CLAIMING STAKES (£2,700: 7f) (12)

1 5110 ABTAAL 18 (V,D,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 8-9-9 .. P McCabe 1
2 0016 VILLAGE NATIVE 33 (C,F,S) K L-Brown 5-9-9 .. Paul Eddery 8
3 3303 C-HARRY 22 (CD,G,S) R Hollinshead 4-9-3 .. N Callan (5) 3
4 -300 FINAL STAB 11 (D,D,S) Miss S Wilton 5-9-3 .. C Carver (7) 5
5 0620 SCATHEBURY 26 (C,D,F,S) *K Burke 5-9-3* .. D Holland 12
6 3031 U-NO-HARRY 22 (D,F) R Hollinshead 5-9-3 .. Dean McKeown 10
7 5P35 *RECOGNITION 43 (B,D) N Fahey 3-8-13* .. *R Winston (3) 7*
8 4544 HOLLOWAY MELODY 10 (G) B Mchlahon 5-8-12 .. T Quinn 2
9 1510 OVER THE MOON 14 (CD) N Littmoden 4-8-12 .. T McLaughlin 4
10 30 FLY HOME 15 A McNair 3-8-6 .. F Lynch 9
11 1500 MILLI 10 (G) A James 3-8-8 .. C Lowther 11
12 5000 *COLD STEEL 22 (V,CD)* K Morgan 4-8-5 .. P Fitzsimons (7) 6

4-1 U-No-Harry, 5-1 Aabtaal, 6-1 C-Harry, 7-1 Village Native, 8-1 others

8.00 MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,915: 7f) (12)

1 1045 DIAMOND DRILL 98 (D) P Makin 9-7 .. S Sanders 7
2 6152 FIRST CONSUL 42 (CD) Sir M Stoute 9-0 .. D Holland 4
3 6001 HOLLOW HAZE 14 (C) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 .. R Havlin (3) 1
4 0143 ZOBAIDA 29 (CD) M James 8-11 .. J Quinn 10
5 -000 WILTON 5 J Hetherton 8-8 .. N Kennedy 12
6 1502 MAMMA'S BOY 31 (G) J Berry 8-7 .. P Fessey 2
7 0340 LOWN SPOONFUL 7 P Cole 8-6 .. T Quinn 11
8 5050 BEST OF OUR DAYS 9 C Thornton 8-5 .. Dean McKeown 9
9 0054 MADAME JONES 24 (F,G) M A Buckley 8-5 .. J Stack 5
10 1236 *PIP'S ADDITION 10 (D) J Glover 8-4* .. T Sprake 8
11 0-00 ANITA AT DAWN 103 (S) B Pelling 8-4 .. G Faulkner (3) 3
12 0036 GOING PLACES 8 (B,S) K Ivory 7-10 .. P Bradley (7) 6

5-2 First Consul, 3-1 Hollow Haze, 5-1 Zobaida, 7-1 Diamond Drill, 10-1 others

8.30 CLAIREFONTEIN NOVICE AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,236: 6f) (12)

1 1564 APRIL ACE 43 (D,S) M Quinn 8-0 .. A Whelan 6
2 3040 SYDNEY SAFEHANDS 14 (C) N Littmoden 8-9 .. T McLaughlin 7
3 4116 *KILBOWIE HILL 30 (CD,F) D McCain 8-9* .. W J O'Connor 3
4 00 RAYWARE BOY 7 D Shaw 8-8 .. M Tebbutt 5
5 1204 CONSULTANT 14 (C) N Littmoden 8-7 .. D Holland 6
6 4100 GIFTO WE'RE GOND 22 (V,CD) Mrs N Macauley 8-7 .. P McCabe 1
7 3561 WELSH ASSEMBLY 56 (D) G Enright 8-7 .. S Sanders 10
8 0032 HEATHYARDS JAKE 29 P Hollinshead 8-5 .. A Daly (3) 9
9 4401 POKEY 47 G L Moore 8-5 .. J Quinn 12
10 3020 RISKY VALENTINE 43 (C) J Spearing 8-4 .. A Mackay 4
11 550 CRYSTAL LASS 63 J Balding 8-0 .. J Edmunds 11
12 3203 MILLIONFORMERTHYR 8 (B) B Pelling 8-0 .. T Sprake 2

7-2 Consultant, 4-1 Sydney Safehands, 9-2 Heathyards Jake, 7-1 April Ace, 8-1 Kilbowie Hill, Risky Valentine, 12-1 Millionformerthyr, 14-1 others.

9.00 HAPPY VALLEY SELLING HANDICAP (£2,040: 1m 4f) (12)

1 013- ZIGGY'S VIOLA 323 (F) Mrs A Haughton 4-9-10 .. M Richardson 4
2 3602 MANOHAR 14 (D) G Lewis *3-9-7* .. *Paul Eddery 12*
3 0020 BONNIE VILLE 50 (C) B Pelling 4-9-7 .. T Sprake 6
4 4006 RADAR O'REILLY 22 (F) R Williams 4-9-4 .. D Biggs 10
5 1200 FINSBURY FLYER 5 (B,S) H Manners 5-9-2 .. A Eddery (5) 11
6 0344 LOOK WHO'S CALLING 7 B McMahon 5-8-9 .. T Quinn 5
7 530 PEARL ANNIVERSARY 7 (B,CD) Miss Wilton 5-8-13 C Carver (7) 7
8 0256 AVANTI BLUE 68 (D) K McAuliffe 4-8-11 .. A Culhane 9
9 5385 ARESH 169 M Pipe 5-8-9 .. G Faulkner (3) 3
10 3406 CHERRY GARDEN 7 (B) T Hodgson 5-8-7 .. Darren Moffatt (3) 1
11 1000 SILVER HOPE 29 (V,CD) R Hollinshead 3-8-5 .. A McCarthy (3) 8
12 0352 SASSY 35 (F) A James 3-8-5 .. D Sweeney 2

7-2 Manohar, 11-2 Aresh, 13-2 Sassy, 7-1 Look Who's Calling, 8-1 Radar O'Reilly, Avanti Blue, 10-1 Ziggy's Viola, 12-1 others.

9.30 CHANTELLY HANDICAP (£3,003: 6f) (13)

1 0005 *BRUTAL FANTASY 7 (C,D,F,G) J Eyre 4-10-0* R Winston (3) 6
2 0004 DANCING MYSTERY 19 (D,G) E Wheeler 4-10-0 .. S Carson (7) 12
3 3422 ITALIAN SYMPHONY 14 (V,CD) P Evans 4-9-13 .. C Coppa (7) 7
4 4350 MARENGO 14 (CD,S) J Berry 4-9-12 .. A Clark 2
5 0616 GENERAL KLAIRE 30 (CD) B McMahon 3-9-12 .. T Quinn 11
6 0025 ROYAL CASCADE 32 (CD) B McMahon 4-9-8 .. L Newton 9
7 8005 SARA MOON CLASSIC 10 (B) K McAuliffe 3-9-7 .. A Culhane 13
8 0363 LONG ISLAND 14 (B) K Ivory 3-9-7 .. C Lowther 4
9 5010 PRIDE OF BRIXTON 14 (C,S,B) P Evans 5-9-6 .. Dean McKeown 3
10 0600 SHALSTAYHOLY 24 (D,F,S) G L Moore 4-9-5 .. J Quinn 1
11 000 MIKE'S DOUBLE 22 (V,CD) Mrs N Macauley 4-9-5 N Callan (5) 10
12 8201 KOMASEPH 22 (D) R Hannon 5-9-2 .. T G McLaughlin 5
13 1050 KOSEVO 17 (V) D Shaw 4-8-12 .. R Mullen (3) 8

9-2 Italian Symphony, 11-2 Pride Of Brixton, 7-1 Marengo, Komaseph, 8-1 others.

Second Empire to stake claim

SECOND EMPIRE attempts to resume where he left off when he returns to Longchamp tomorrow for the Emirates Prix du Moulin (Chris McGrath writes). Two brilliant performances in Paris last autumn confirmed Second Empire as one of the best young horses at Ballydoyle, but things did not work out quite as planned in the classics.

Defeat in the Irish 2,000 Guineas saw Christy Roche widely criticised for too indulgent a ride, while the colt finished down the field at Epsom when stepped up in trip for the Derby. Happily, he looked back to his best when romping home in group three company at the Curragh last month and can establish himself as the best miler of his generation.

Those standing in his way include Desert Prince, who capitalised on his eclipse in the Irish Guineas and was only caught close home by Dr Fong in the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot. The other Newmarket raider is the indefatigable Almushtarak, who ran another fine race at Goodwood last weekend.

Seeking The Pearl, the Japanese filly who broke new ground in winning the Prix Maurice de Gheest at Deauville last month, stays this longer trip, but is unproven on soft ground. Her jockey, Yutaka Take, enjoyed his first European group one success in this race with Ski Paradise four years ago.

Cornerstone of the home defence is Zalaiyka. A four-length winner of the French 1,000 Guineas, she has not been out since being turned over by Exclusive in the Coronation Stakes at Royal Ascot. The other French hopes are Gold Away and Miss Berbere.

HARRODS
INTRODUCES A GOLF
CLUB WHICH
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BOXING

Woodhall takes on unlikely challenger

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

RICHIE WOODHALL'S first defence of his World Boxing Council (WBC) super-middleweight title should be a straightforward one at Telford tonight.

Woodhall meets Glenn Catley, a Bristol middleweight. Catley is a late substitute for Vincenzo Nardiello, of Italy, and is not regarded widely as world title material in his own division, never mind the heavier one. No one was more surprised than Catley himself when he was chosen as Woodhall's opponent. "I can't believe it," he said. "I had considered retiring only two months ago."

No need to ask how a lowly middleweight got his big chance in a heavier division. Best to put it down to Rule 19 that can override any rule in boxing, anywhere in the world, and is the most overworked in the game.

However, in spite of the discrepancy in class between the two boxers, it is a better contest than the original one from the spectators' point of view. Nardiello is a talented southpaw but his performances have not always been of world title quality. In his last appearance in Britain in 1996 he beat Thulane Malinga, of South Africa, for the WBC title but the bout was regarded as the most boring championship fight ever seen in this country.

Catley is the exact opposite of Nardiello. The challenger is a crowd pleaser and can be expected to have a go for as long as the contest lasts. The bout should not go further than five rounds but, if it does, an exciting finish is likely.

ATHLETICS: AMERICAN ALL-ROUNDER READY TO CASH IN ON GOLDEN FORM THIS SUMMER

Opponents find it hard to keep up with Jones

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

IT WAS is if Christine Arron, the new wonderwoman of European sprinting, did not exist. Marion Jones crushed her as surely as if her 23st fiancé, C. J. Hunter, the World Cup shot champion, had sat on a fly. The new script could be thrown away.

The occasion was the first Golden League meeting after the European championships in Budapest, where Arron broke Irina Privalova's continental record for the 100 metres. France had a new heroine to replace Marie-José Pérec and the sport was permitted the rare indulgence of wondering whether Jones might be about to lose a race.

The day before she was to meet Arron, Jones was ready for the question. "OK, let's deal with this," she said. "My reaction to Christine Arron's time of 10.73sec? Sure, it's a wonderful time. I'm not testy about her: I think it's wonderful she has run so fast and I congratulate her. No more questions about Christine Arron."

How easy it must be to compliment other athletes when you know you have the beating of them. And Jones knew. After that race, eight days ago in Brussels, Jones came off the track, saying: "Who thought Arron could beat me? Today, with this race, I gave my answer to who is the fastest woman in the world."

Jones defeated Arron by a metre and a half. Yet Arron had become, in Budapest, the third-quickest woman ever, running within 0.02sec of Jones's fastest. Now the Frenchwoman has quit for the season and who can blame her, with Jones in such form? She was not in Berlin on Tuesday for the last in the Golden League series, where Jones stretched her sequence of 100 metres victories this year to 17. She will not be in Moscow today for the grand prix final.

Betting against Jones winning and becoming the first man or woman to be voted International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) athlete of the year two years in succession would make no more sense than prize-winners in Moscow demanding their money in roubles. The IAAF cashpoint opens today, with most of the season's $7 million in prize-money distributed.

Jones stands to be the biggest collector, earning $500,000. The figure assumes a quarter share in the $1 million jackpot to be divided among athletes winning at the six Golden League meetings and the grand prix final. Jones's $250,000 jackpot share would rise if she wins and any of the other three, Hicham El Guerrouj, in the 1,500 metres, Haile Gebrselassie, in the 3,000 metres, or Bryan Bronson, in the 400 metres hurdles, loses.



WOLFGANG KUMM

Jones feels she can break the 100 metres world record held by Florence Griffith-Joyner

The careers of Bronson and Jones have followed similar paths — they were the US high school athletes of the year in 1991 and were brought up on a tight budget by single parents. Bronson, though, remained faithful to athletics while Jones went on a boomerang ride from track to another sport and back again.

Jones was so talented at basketball that, despite running world age records of 11.17sec at 15, and 11.14 at 16, she put athletics to one side, competing rarely. She helped the University of North Carolina win the NCAA basketball championship in 1994 and is the only Carolina sophomore to score 1,000 points. She is the UNC record-holder for points by a freshman. "North Carolina is a basketball state and, to some people there, I am still better-known as a basketball player," Jones said.

Yet those impressive statistics on the court are dwarfed by her achievements on the track. Last year, in her first season back, Jones won the 100 metres world title. This year she is out on her own in three events, the 100, 200 and long jump. Only Florence Griffith-Joyner, the 100 metres world record-holder, has run faster than her 10.71sec.Jones, 22, said: "A woman has run 10.49, so a woman can run under 10.49. I am the woman who might do that."

Then she analyses where improvement might come. "My reaction time can be improved, my first 30 can be stronger, I can make more impact in the middle part, and I can finish stronger." Oh to be so imperfect.

And the long jump? "That is the event I have most potential at. I have a lot to learn." The learning to come will be as Mrs Hunter. Jones is due to marry next month. Track or aisle, she commands centre stage. Always the bride, never the bridesmaid.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Manning and Elway ready for star roles

By Oliver Holt

WHEN American football stages its own version of the big kick-off across the country tomorrow, attention will be focused squarely on two quarterbacks. One has agreed to return for one last season after it seemed he had ended his career on the highest note possible, the other stands on the threshold of the greatness that has been predicted for him.

Just as basketball fans are holding their breath, waiting to see whether Michael Jordan retires from the game or not before play recommences in the autumn, so American football spent a nervous spring pleading with John Elway to play out a final season for the Denver Broncos before he allows himself time to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Rocky Mountains.

Seen as a loser for so long after leading the Broncos to a series of Super Bowl defeats, Elway finally rid himself of that reputation in San Diego last January when he led Denver to a surprise victory over the Green Bay Packers in one of the best Super Bowls of recent years. The Broncos' win also struck a blow for the pride of the American Football Conference (AFC) which had seemed to have shrunk in the shadow of the National Football Conference (NFC).

In the end, Elway yielded to the pleas of colleagues, coaches and the public and will line up against the New England Patriots in Mile High Stadium on Monday. The Jacksonville Jaguars and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers are the Super Bowl favourites this season but Elway's presence ensures Denver will still be significant players. "A farewell tour?" Elway said. "I don't think so. Like I'm going to go to other stadiums and they'll cheer for me? It'll be 'let's all join together and kill him one more time'."

But if the American public knows all about Elway, it is waiting with baited breath for the first National Football League appearance of Peyton Manning, the top pick in this year's draft who will begin his professional career tomorrow against the Miami Dolphins in the RCA Dome.



Manning: 'a piranha'

The Colts won only three of their 16 games last season but they are paying Manning, who has starred for the University of Tennessee, an estimated £25m over six years to try to turn things around. "I am coaching a piranha," Bruce Arians, the Colts' quarterback coach, said of Manning. "He eats everything you give him and then he wants more."

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THE TIMES SATURDAY

Audi'

Stuart Birch drives new TT, a German to keep middle-aged wheels — by offering

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TROVER800 may not be cutting-edge

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Audi's answer to baby-boom boredom

Stuart Birch drives Germany's radical new TT, a German sportster that aims to keep middle-aged youngsters off two wheels — by offering them four fast ones



Audi TT is little changed from the concept car from which it grew: the Bauhaus-inspired design reduces its lines to bare essentials, though it is anything but understated

AUDI TT COUPE 1.8

Engine: 1,781cc four-cylinder, delivering 225bhp through six-speed manual gearbox.
Acceleration: 0-60mph, 6.4 seconds.
Top speed: 151mph
Consumption: Urban, 23mpg; extra urban, 38.7mpg; combined; 30.7mpg.
Price: £25,000 - £30,000 (est).

Audi is banking on the idea that its thrillingly unconventional new turbocharged, four-wheel-drive sports coupé is going to succeed through what it calls the "motorcycle syndrome".

The firm's UK managing director, Len Hunt, says: "That syndrome is all about the baby-boomers, now aged 35 to 55, who have spent their adult lives driving estates and saloons but who want something really exciting and special in the garage that they can call their own. A powerful motorbike can give them that. But they may still prefer four wheels to two."

There is even a motorcycle link in the new Audi's name: TT. The Tourist Trophy started in 1905 as a race for both motorcycles and cars.

Audi may be on to a good thing. Motorcycle sales have boomed in recent years, with many so-called born-again bikers — well-heeled thirty and fortysomethings — buying ultra-fast sportsbikes for some excitement at the weekend.

And if Audi's use of the TT name looks a little opportunistic, one should remember that in the first few years of the Isle of Man's famous trophy race, German NSU riders were a force to be reckoned with. NSU, which became part of the Audi group in the Sixties, launched a sporty version of its Prinz model in 1967 — called the TT. A twisty heritage trail, perhaps, but a true one nevertheless.

The 2+2 Audi TT's aerodynamically curvy, uncluttered style takes its cues from the Bauhaus design school of the 1920s, which believed in reducing outlines and forms to essentials.

But there is nothing stark about this car, nothing basic about its technology or performance, and you certainly don't need to be middle-aged to enjoy it.

The 1.8-litre 225bhp turbocharged six-speed version gets to 60 mph in only 6.4 seconds and has a 151mph top speed. Its price will be around £0,000, but £25,000 will buy the 180bhp model — a 1.8-litre turbo but with five speeds, which at 7.4 seconds to 60 is not much slower.

Audi dealers have taken about a thousand deposits for TT coupés. The first will arrive in the UK in the spring and a TT Roadster is expected here late next year, but for now the order books are temporarily closed. Hunt says he wants to avoid the sort of financial speculation that saw the two-seat BMW Z3, and particularly the Mercedes-Benz SLK, changing hands for thousands of pounds above list price as demand drastically outstripped supply.

The TT may be based on a platform shared with the Audi A3 hatchback, VW Golf and the Skoda Octavia, but it is every inch a taut sports coupé.

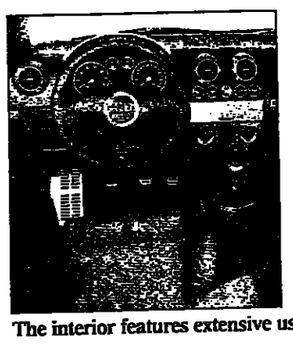
The TT's suspension employs MacPherson struts at the front — taken from VW's Golf — but with revised geometry. At the rear, the four-wheel-drive quattro sits on multi-link suspension (UK buyers will not get the chance to purchase the TT in its cheaper, front-wheel-drive incarnation).

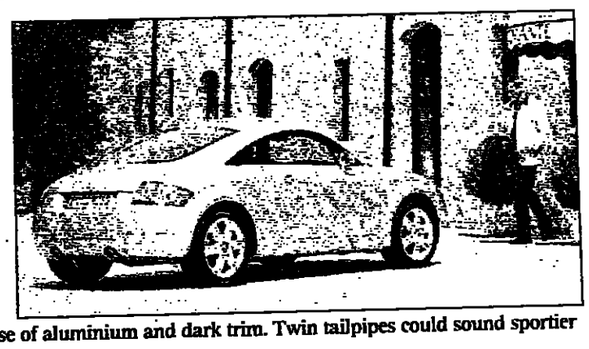
Audi launched the car in Umbria, Italy, a place of fast, winding, swooping roads where the TT's superbly fluid, roll-free, super-grippy handling and vigorous responses bring a guaranteed smile to any driver seeking an adrenalin rush.

Both versions of the TT feel right, with the standard quattro permanent four-wheel-drive system giving added grip proportionately to front or rear wheels where and when it is needed.

Audi's famous quattro system appears here in its latest, hi-tech guise, and reacts to any slip of a tyre's grip. Power is then deployed where it's needed most by means of a multiplate clutch.

An impressive array of technology — the clutch runs in an oil bath, a pump cuts in when there is a difference between the speed of the clutch and output shafts — means that the car can react to wheelspin before the tyre has spun just one quarter of a turn.





The interior features extensive use of aluminium and dark trim. Twin tailpipes could sound sportier

The system provided a 50:50 fore-aft split in certain conditions, and always gave a feeling of great security. It even works in reverse gear. While the ride is firm, it is always very comfortable.

The TT first saw the light of day in 1995 as a stunningly original motor show concept design, and Audi daringly decided to put it into production almost without any alterations.

In fact it looks vastly better on the road than it ever did on a motor show plinth. There is a hint of Porsche 911 about it and, at the rear, of the classic Aston Martin DB4 and DB5.

The interior is as individualistic as the exterior, with extensive use of brushed aluminium contrasting with dark trim to create an ambience of artistic practicality.

There are small rear seats, the backrests of which fold down, and a hatchback-type tailgate, so that ageing baby-boomers can carry children or grandchildren (the rear seats will also take Isofix child seats), golf clubs or a stack of supermarket shopping bags.

The coupé's windows are narrow and the sides high-waisted, which gives a somewhat restricted driver's view that can make parking awkward.

With such a bright car, the fitting of a lift-out sunroof or targa-style roof panels would give the TT added attractiveness.

The interior engine noise, particularly of the 225bhp model with its separate twin-exhaust system, is sporty but could have sounded better still. The 180bhp engine's exhaust, meanwhile, is sometimes boomy.

The TT, assembled in Audi's Györ plant in Hungary, has a highly rigid bodyshell, and safety elements include front and side airbags. In the UK, Audi expects to sell slightly more of the 180bhp-engined TT version — because of its competitive price of £25,000 — than the more powerful model.

Innovative styling, a high level of technology and attention to quality make the TT something special. It is the sort of car you just want to get into and keep on driving almost regardless of the weather.

In short, it's a humdinger.

Honda's VFR800: the all-round sensible way to reach 150mph

PETER TRIEVNOR



The VFR800 may not be cutting-edge, but it proves a very useable, fast motorcycle

John Naish puts the do-it-all sports bike to a real-world test

Deep in every supersports bike rider's mind, in the Freudian locker marked "Scary", lurks the nagging thought that they may not be the road-poking power-crazed hero that their one-piece race leathers proclaim them to be.

Many will simply console themselves by polishing their Ducati 916 or Yamaha R1 in the garage. Others — those who can master the power, cope with the tortuous ergonomics, and keep their licences — may actually ride the things hard (though current stats on second-hand sports bikes show that most only do around 2,000 miles a year).

A significant number of riders, however, are prepared to acknowledge some level of personal inadequacy and technical compromise by buying the machine fast-developing a reputation as motorcycling's Wash 'n' Go product — Honda's VFR800. Could these owners be the Nineties woman's dream — the sensitive New Man in big boots?

The VFR spent some years living down an awful launch in its original 750cc "VF" guise, after its expensively developed engine developed highly self-destructive habits. Now it is quietly becoming a cult among quick riders who clock up big mileages.

This year's model, up-engined by 50cc to 800cc with a gutsy new version of Honda's V4 motor, has propelled the VFR into the proper sports bike arena. But the £8,600 bike also enhances its reputation as the great all-rounder: the machine on which you can burn away from the lights, tour Britain under a pile of luggage, and take the missus for a spin on Sundays.

Mainstream motorcycling has changed radically in the past two decades — from a year-round mode of transport to be ridden to work in all weathers and taken for a blast at the weekend, to a lifestyle-leisure choice, where the machine is used only for high jinks on sunny Sundays. But the old-fashioned bike-for-all-seasons market still exists, and the VFR seems the best candidate to meet its needs.

Gosh Mr Honda, have you really found motorcycling's Holy Grail? The claim does not quite pass the real-world test of living with the bike. But it is a very good stab.

The new motor stirs a dollop of character into the usual Japanese soup; under hard throttle the normally neighbour-friendly silencer emits a snarl. There is no neck-wrenching power step, but the motor gets steadily stronger, particularly in the thumping mid-range, to a top-end of around 150mph. It is a strong, confident powerplant, though a little out of the leading-edge modern horsepower league.

> 'The VFR is biking's Wash 'n' Go product, but with a hint of character'

The theme is continued by the upright-but-sporty riding position, good-for-200-miles seat, and suspension that remains calm, controlled and even comfy up to the point of nine-tenths scratching.

Riding the VFR on a long trip through London and into the speedy depths of southern England involved no highly strung tensions, no tantrums, no wrist-ache and no near-death scares. It has everything for the almost-hero.

The rest is reassuring Honda fare: thick paint, sturdy parts, and the obligatory fun-but-futile gizmo — a gauge that tells the temperature "outside" the bike. The gauge does not make up for a lack of luggage capacity, however: proper mounting points and perhaps even some dedicated Honda equipment might be a boon, but the company says it does not recommend such practicalities as they may spoil the machine's balance.

Personal relations are another area where the all-rounder claim falls short. I perched my partner on the pillion for a quick 100-mile round trip to watch the sunset over the coast, only to find the romance of the moment tempered by a welter of complaint.

Most of this concerned the riding position, which left her stuck out in the windblast where she became convinced she was about to be tossed on to the fast lane of the motorway. Oh, and the hand-grips were uncomfortable and the pillion pegs too high.

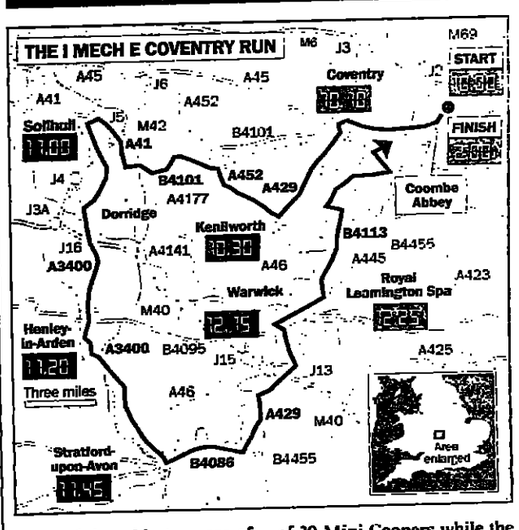
Not that this may upset too many buyers. Peter Thriscutt, founder of the 1,000-strong VFR owners club, says that at least half of his members had joined shortly after splitting up with their spouses: "They had a choice of an affair or a VFR, and they picked the smart alternative."

Thriscutt says that the five-year-old club's membership features a large number of professionals such as chartered accountants and judges. Many are mile-eaters too. Thriscutt's ten-year-old 148,000-mile example is a mere whippersnapper compared with one member's veteran, which is nearing the 400,000-mile mark.

"The thing about the VFR is that it will do everything well, but nothing brilliantly," he says. "If you make a mistake, it will let you off — though that is what makes it boring to some people."

Boring to some, but loyalty-inspiring to others. Ian Waldock, head of London's Motorcycle City dealership, says: "When I was a salesman, I used to dread people turning up on VFRs, because they would come in, try out all the sportsbikes, say they were all very good and then ride off happily on their VFR, because they loved the riding position and the well-rounded package. Now I just try to sell them the new version of the VFR."

TIMES READERS JOIN CLASSIC CAR RUN



ONE of the widest ranges of cars ever seen together, including 20 owned by *Times* readers and 500 in total, will take to the roads of Shakespeare country tomorrow for a 68-mile journey to a spectacular rally. *Tony Dawe writes.*

The annual Coventry Run has been expanded this year, with the support of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, to include some of grandest modern cars as well as the veterans and classics familiar to the thousands of spectators who normally line the route.

An "Innovative Twenty" will include a rare BMW M1, a Ferrari 348 Spyder and one of only three Lamborghini Espadas, while Rover will present a colourful display of the latest MGF sports cars. Paddy Hopkirk, the former rally driver, will lead a parade of 30 Mini Coopers while the Jaguar Daimler Heritage Trust will present a collection of race-winning models.

The *Times* Twenty reflects the remarkable range featured on the run, with rare 1920s cars contrasting with a 1966 Morris 1000 Convertible and a 1988 Bentley Eight. A 1926 Bugatti saloon has been restored as closely as possible to its original specification by its owner, Sidney Goldstein of North London. Stuart Gray of Hitchin is entering an equally eye-catching 1924 Bean 12HP Tourer, one of fewer than 100 surviving Beans.

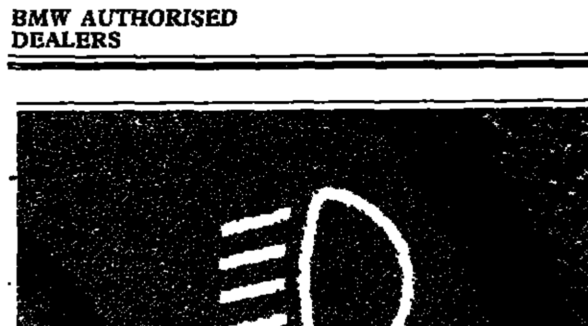
The cavalcade will start and finish at Coombe Country Park, where bands will be playing and other remarkable vehicles displayed, and will take about two hours to pass each viewing point.

SEE DAMON HILL V BARRY SHEENE — FREE



TWO ex-world champions will duel for the first time at Goodwood in a fortnight. Formula One driver Damon Hill (left) and grand prix motorcycle hero Barry Sheene will race each other on motorbikes at the historic circuit's reopening. The first 100 *Times* readers to call the ticket hotline, 01243-755 055, mentioning *The Times* Go section, will win a free ticket for Saturday, September 9. The next 400 to call who buy a Saturday ticket will win a grandstand seat.

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AUDI

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323i auto convertible, Feb 97, Metallic blue, blue p/hood, grey leather, alarm, CD, tracker, 25,000 miles, FSH, Reluctant sale. £26,000 ono. Chelmsford: 01245 355898 / 01708 552222

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328i Coupe Auto, 95N, 41k, Montreal Blue, ESR, ASH, LSD, tracker, stereo, phone. FSH. £18,900. 0181 3487705.

328i Convertible, 96 (N), Samoa Blue, Black lthr, FBMWSH, 36k. £25,995. Chris: 0181 681 4602 (Day) / 0181 770 2021 (Eve).

328i Conv auto 97 P.18k mls, Boston green, beige lthr, lux pack walnut trim, alarm, immac £30,000. 0171 568 4809.

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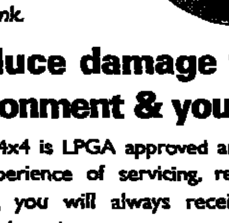
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98R E200 Elegance Azurite/Grey Cloth, Auto, Air Conditioning £27,995
96N E200 Elegance Estate Tourmaline/Mushroom Cloth, RFS £28,995
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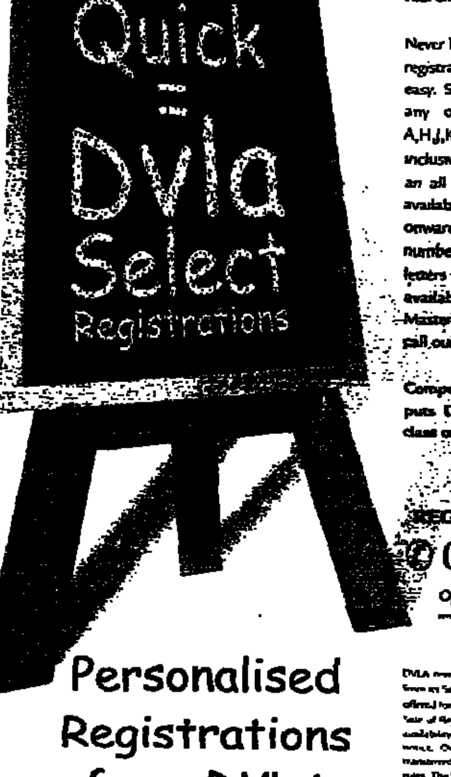
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944 DBC	1,200	HIL 1959	1,000	MIB 16	1,600	YMW 86	1,600
DS 7228	1,350	713 JAB	2,500	MIL 511	2,000	759 YEV	450
EL 1362	1,400	JAZ 511	1,600	4803 NC	1,400	32 YG	2,000
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350SL 72, Silver, 76k mls, hard/ soft tops. Good condition. Best offer. Tel: 01494 433791.

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THE TIMES SATURDA
Reco
By JOHN O'LEARY EDUCATION EDITOR

مكتبة امين الاجل

Record score completes St Paul's double

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

London's two St Paul's schools can celebrate a clean sweep of the examination league tables today, with St Paul's Girls registering their fourth top place in five years of *The Times* GCSE ranking. The boys topped last week's A-level table.

The 78 St Paul's girls achieved a record score, with 97.4 per cent of all subject entries awarded A* or A grades. But second-placed King Edward VI High School for Girls, in Birmingham, have narrowed the gap since last year and their 67.1 per cent of entries at A* was the highest proportion at the top grade.

Leading scores in the table are significantly higher than in 1997. The top four schools all saw more than 90 per cent of their entries at A or A* this year, double last year's number. The proportion at A* has also risen throughout the table.

The upper reaches of the table see some spectacular rises. The girls of Haberdashers' Aske's School, in Hertfordshire, leap from 19th place to fifth, while the Perse School for Girls, in Cambridge, goes from 26th place to eighth.

Wolverhampton Girls' High School not only improves from 61st place to 14th, but records the best performance by any state school. Kendrick School, in Reading, was the leading representative of the state system last year, at 27th.

Independent girls' schools remain unchallenged at the top of the table, however, filling the first eight places. Westminster, Eton, St Paul's and Winchester are the only boys' schools in the top 20. Sevenoaks School, in Kent, and Bancroft's School, in Woodford Green, Essex, are the only mixed schools in the top 50.

As in last week's A-level ranking, a rising pass rate in the top grades is reflected in a larger table. Partly because more state schools submitted their GCSE results this year, 60 more schools appear despite a higher cut-off point. In 1997, 17.5 per cent of entries at A* or A was enough to secure a place; this year the 800th school had 19 per cent at the top grades.

Comprehensive schools are generally at a bigger disadvantage in the GCSE ranking than the equivalent for A level. Even in comprehensives, there is at least an element of self-selection in sixth-forms, while GCSEs are taken by an all-ability intake.

Places are determined by the proportion of entries at A* and A, with the A* percentage used as a tie-breaker when scores are level. Schools with fewer than 20 candidates are excluded from the table.

The independent schools, which only published their results yesterday, again improved their performance nationally. More than 90 per cent of their entries achieved grades the equivalent of an old O-level pass, compared with the national average of 54.7. Almost 18 per cent reached the starred A grade, compared to 4.1 per cent nationally.

Most of the independent schools' results in this table were supplied by the Independent Schools Information Service. Four independent schools which are not members of Isis were omitted from last week's A-level table. They were St John's College, Cardiff, whose 11 candidates averaged 7.50 Ucas points per subject; Concord College, Shrewsbury, with 113 candidates and 6.90 points per subject; Immanuel College, Bushey, Hertfordshire, with 35 candidates at 6.61 points; and the Old Grammar School, Lewes, East Sussex, with 33 candidates at 5.87 points.

State schools' results were collected by Christina Asare Owusu, Senay Boztas, Kate Evans, Valine Graizevsky and Lokei Li.

GUIDE TO THE HIGHEST-RANKING STATE AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

	State Schools in bold type	No of pupils	% A*	% of all A-A*
1	St Paul's Girls' Sch, C London Girls	78	84.1	97.4
2	King Edward VI HS, Birmingham Girls	78	67.1	94.7
3	Withington Girls Sch, Manchester Girls	81	55.6	91.2
4	Wycombe Abbey Sch, High Wycombe, Bucks Girls	83	49.6	90.6
5	Haberdashers' Aske's Sch, Borehamwood, Herts Girls	109	47.8	89.2
6	Oxford High Sch, Oxford Girls	82	46.4	87.6
7	North London Collegiate Sch, Edgware, NW London Girls	105	44.5	86.5
8	Perse Sch, Cambridge Girls	84	48.6	82.9
9	Westminster Sch, C London Boys	103	36.1	82.8
10	St Mary's Sch, Calne, Wilts Girls	55	39.8	82.5
11	Lady Eleanor Holles Sch, Hampton, SW London Girls	101	40.1	82.3
12	Godolphin & Latymer Sch, C London Girls	99	28.1	82.0
13	St Helen & St Katharine, Abingdon, Oxon Girls	80	36.2	81.7
14	**Wolverhampton Girls' HS, West Midlands GM Sel Girls**	89	42.2	81.5
15	Eton Coll, Windsor, Berks Boys	258	38.8	81.1
16	St Paul's Sch, SW London Boys	148	35.9	79.6
17	City of London Sch, C London Girls	77	38.2	79.3
18	Winchester Coll, Hants Boys	139	35.2	77.7
19	James Allen's Girls' Sch, C London Girls	101	36.3	77.5
20	Guildford HS, Guildford, Surrey Girls	75	37.4	77.1
21	King's HS, Warwick Girls	82	41.7	76.5
22	**Tiffin Girls Sch, Kingston Upon Thames LEA Sel Girls**	117	29.9	76.2
23	Badminton Sch, Bristol Girls	53	38.3	76.1
24	Manchester Gram Sch, Manchester Boys	199	32.9	75.8
25	Cheltenham Ladies' Coll, Glos Girls	134	34.3	75.6
26	Sevenoaks Sch, Kent Mix	131	29.1	75.6
27	South Hampstead HS, C London Girls	98	38.8	75.4
28	Central Newcastle HS, Newcastle-upon-Tyne Girls	79	36.9	75.3
29	**Kendrick Sch, Reading, Berkshire GM Sel Girls**	92	33.4	75.2
30	Old Palace Sch, Croydon, Surrey Girls	80	36.2	75.0
31	**Henrietta Barnett Sch, Barnet, N London LEA Sel Girls**	91	30.8	75.0
32	King's Coll Sch, Wimbledon, SW London Boys	41	31.1	74.9
33	Bancroft's Sch, Woodford Green, Essex Mix	103	40.6	74.8
34	**Chelmsford County HS, Essex GM Sel Girls**	95	32.9	74.4
35	King Edward's Sch, Birmingham Boys	128	29.1	74.4
36	St Swithun's Sch, Winchester, Hants Girls	75	36.6	74.3
37	**St Olave's Gram Sch, Orpington, Kent GM Sel Boys**	102	32.6	74.3
38	Downe House, Thatcham, Berks Girls	101	30.0	74.3
39	Abbey Sch, Reading, Berks Girls	94	29.9	73.9
40	Royal Gram Sch, Guildford, Surrey Boys	148	30.7	73.6
41	Haberdashers' Aske's Sch, Borehamwood, Herts Boys	164	31.5	73.5
42	Putney HS, C London Girls	87	28.1	73.5
43	Croydon HS, South Croydon, Surrey Girls	102	31.8	72.2
44	**Stratford Upon Avon Gram Sch, Warwicks LEA Sel Girls**	67	27.6	72.0
45	Malvern Girls' Coll, Worcs Girls	67	30.2	71.9
46	**St Michael's RC Gram Sch, N London GM Sel Girls**	95	28.3	71.9
47	Bolton Sch, Lancs Girls	125	38.4	71.8
48	St Mary's Sch Ascot, Berks Girls	60	30.4	71.7
49	**Colchester County HS, Essex GM Sel Girls**	96	30.6	71.6
50	St Helen's Sch, Northwood, NW Lond Girls	92	23.6	71.5
51	Radley Coll, Abingdon, Oxon Boys	126	31.0	71.4
52	St Albans HS, Herts Girls	78	26.2	71.3
53	Howell's Sch Llandaff, Cardiff, S Wales Girls	89	38.3	71.0
54	King's Sch, Chester, Cheshire Boys	70	31.2	69.8
55	Dame Alice Harpur Sch, Bedford Girls	107	27.1	69.8
56	Leicester HS, Leics Girls	41	26.3	69.3
57	Loughborough HS, Leics Girls	80	26.4	69.1
58	Nottingham HS, Notts Girls	120	27.2	68.9
59	Birkenhead HS, Wirral, Girls	90	33.5	68.7
60	Sir William Perkins's Sch, Chertsey, Surrey Girls	89	24.3	68.7
61	Benenden Sch, Cranbrook, Kent Girls	80	25.3	68.5
62	**Colyton Gram Sch, Colyford, Devon GM Sel Mix**	126	21.9	68.1
63	**Lancaster Girls' Gram Sch, Lancs GM Sel Girls**	97	31.7	68.0
64	**Newstead Wood Sch, Orpington, Kent GM Sel Girls**	117	27.1	68.0
65	Red Maids' Sch, Bristol Girls	78	27.8	67.9
66	Stockport Gram Sch, Stockport Mix	145	27.5	67.8
67	Notting Hill & Ealing HS, NW London Girls	82	30.4	67.6
68	Maynard Sch, Exeter, Devon Girls	89	28.2	67.6
69	**Reading Sch, Reading GM Sel Boys**	105	30.8	67.5
70	Queen's Sch, Chester, Cheshire Girls	69	29.8	67.2
71	Chetham's Sch of Music, Manchester, Mix	31	32.1	67.1
72	Portsmouth Gram Sch, Hants Mix	122	29.6	67.1
73	**King Edward VI Gram Sch, Chelmsford, Essex GM Sel Boys**	94	25.1	66.7
74	Roedean Sch, Brighton, E Sussex Girls	60	30.7	66.6
75	Charterhouse, Godalming, Surrey Boys	123	27.2	66.5
76	Wakefield Girls' HS, Wakefield, W Yorks Girls	108	29.8	66.3
77	**Woodford Co HS, Woodford Green, Essex LEA Sel Girls**	120	26.0	66.2
78	Tonbridge Sch, Kent Boys	138	23.1	66.2
79	Perse Sch, Cambridge Boys	96	22.2	66.0
80	Brighton & Hove HS, Brighton, E Sussex Girls	81	31.6	65.5
81	Leeds Girls' HS, W Yorks Girls	86	28.3	65.5
82	Manchester HS, Manchester Girls	99	24.9	65.5
83	Sheffield HS, S Yorks Girls	77	28.4	65.4
84	Belvedere Sch, Liverpool Girls	82	23.6	65.4
85	Wimbledon HS, SW London Girls	86	25.4	65.1
86	Bury Gram Sch (Girls), Bury, Lancs Girls	115	23.4	65.0
87	Whitgift Sch, South Croydon, Surrey Boys	168	29.1	64.9
88	Ladies Coll, Guernsey, C.I. Girls	46	24.8	64.7
89	Leeds Gram Sch, W Yorks W Boys	138	30.0	64.6
90	St Peter's Sch, York, Mix	100	30.5	64.5
91	University Coll Sch, C London, Boys	104	35.2	64.4
92	**Judd Sch, Tonbridge, Kent Vol Boys Sel**	118	19.9	64.2
93	Norwich HS, Norfolk Girls	97	26.8	64.1
94	Rugby Sch, Warwicks Mix	129	23.8	64.1
95	**Lancaster Royal Gram Sch, Lancs GM Sel Boys**	128	26.0	64.0
96	King's Sch, Canterbury, Kent Mix	149	24.4	63.9
97	Howell's Sch, Denbigh, N Wales Girls	22	23.2	63.9
98	Hampton Sch, Hampton, SW London Boys	144	19.1	63.8
99	Royal Gram Sch, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Boys	133	24.9	63.5
100	Bromley HS, Bromley, Kent Girls	77	19.6	63.4
101	Nottingham HS, Notts Boys	113	21.5	63.1
102	Merchant Taylors' Sch, Liverpool, Girls	102	33.5	62.9
103	**King Edward VI Camp Hill Sch, Birmingham GM Sel Boys**	92	23.3	62.9
104	Merchant Taylors' Sch, Northwood, NW London Boys	130	17.4	62.9
105	Haberdashers' Monmouth Sch, SW Wales Girls	92	28.7	62.8
106	Bradford Girls' Gram Sch, W Yorks W Girls	97	27.9	62.8
107	Abingdon Sch, Abingdon, Oxon Boys	133	25.1	62.8
108	Merchant Taylors' Sch, Liverpool Boys	103	26.5	62.7
109	Portsmouth HS, Southsea, Hants Girls	82	28.2	62.3
110	Shrewsbury Sch, Salop Boys	132	22.1	62.3
111	Queen Margaret's Sch, York Girls	52	23.2	62.1
112	Talbot Heath Sch, Bournemouth, Dorset Girls	64	21.5	62.0
113	Durham HS, Durham Girls	47	32.3	61.8
114	**S Wiltshire Gram Sch, Salisbury, Wilts GM Sel Girls**	123	21.7	61.7
115	Loughborough Gram Sch, Leics Boys	148	26.2	61.6
116	Forest Girls' Sch, NE London Girls	56	21.5	61.6
117	Francis Holland Sch, C London Girls	30	31.8	61.5
118	**Parkstone Gram Sch, Poole, Dorset GM Sel Girls**	165	20.3	61.5
119	Ipswich HS, Suffolk Girls	77	28.0	61.3
120	Eltham Coll, SE London Boys	80	26.8	60.9
121	St Catherine's Sch, Guildford, Surrey Girls	76	29.4	60.8
122	Hymers Coll, Hull, E Yorks Mix	108	20.7	60.8
123	Clifton HS, Bristol Girls	55	30.0	60.6
124	Bath HS, Bath, Somerset Girls	68	25.6	60.6
125	**Tiffin Boys Sch, Kingston upon Thames LEA Sel Boys**	128	24.3	60.6
126	Bristol Gram Sch, Bristol Mix	150	22.9	60.6
127	Harrow Sch, Harrow, NW London Boys	143	24.8	60.5
128	**Tunbridge Wells Gram, Kent LEA Sel Girls**	121	23.4	60.4
129	Grange Sch, Northwich, Cheshire Mix	87	28.2	60.3
130	Queen Anne's Sch Caversham, Reading, Berks Girls	41	24.2	60.1
131	City of London Sch, C London Boys	138	21.8	60.1
132	Woldingham Sch, Caterham, Surrey Girls	76	23.0	60.0
133	Channing Sch, N London Girls	53	20.9	60.0
134	Stamford HS, Stamford, Lincs Girls	98	21.9	59.9
135	**Caistor Gram Sch, Lincs GM Sel Mix**	89	20.9	59.9
136	Ashford Sch, Ashford, Kent Girls	82	27.7	59.7
137	**Altrincham Gram Sch, Cheshire GM Sel Girls**	169	25.3	59.7
138	Godolphin Sch, Salisbury, Wilts Girls	89	22.1	59.7
139	Wolverhampton Gram Sch, W Mids Mix	111	19.0	59.5
140	**Simon Langton Girls Sch, Canterbury, Kent LEA Sel Girls**	155	23.5	59.2
141	Dulwich Coll, C London Boys	186	17.4	59.1
142	Worth Sch, Crawley, W Sussex Boys	57	19.7	58.8
143	Northwood Coll, Northwood, Lond NW Girls	66	15.8	58.7
144	**Pate's Gram Sch, Cheltenham, Glos GM Sel Mix**	126	21.8	58.5
145	Heathfield Sch, Pinner, NW London Girls	45	21.1	58.3
146	Dame Allan's Boys' Sch, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Boys	67	20.2	58.3
147	**Queen Mary's Gram Sch, Walsall, W Mids GM Sel Boys**	93	16.6	58.3
148	Tudor Hall Sch, Banbury, Oxon Girls	43	18.3	58.3
149	**Latymer Sch, Edmonton, N London GM Sel Mix**	179	21.6	58.2
150	Latymer Upper Sch, C London Boys	141	20.8	58.2
151	Kent Coll Pembury, Tunbridge Wells, Kent Girls	32	20.4	58.1
152	**Queen Mary's HS, Walsall, W Mids GM Sel Girls**	92	18.2	58.0
153	**King Edward VI Handsworth Sch, Birmingham GM Girls**	128	19.0	57.8
154	Repton Sch, Derby Mix	109	22.4	57.5
155	St Michael's Sch, Llanelli, S Wales Mix	33	26.0	57.3
156	St Felix Sch, Southwold, Suffolk Girls	38	24.3	57.3
157	Bradford Gram Sch, Bradford, W Yorks Mix	120	20.8	57.2
158	Sutton HS, Sutton, Surrey Girls	71	23.5	57.1
159	Blackheath HS GDST, Blackheath, SE Lond Girls	68	19.1	57.1
160	**King Edward Camp Hill Sch, Birmingham GM Sel Girls**	96	19.0	57.0
161	Bruton Sch, Bruton, Somerset Girls	71	21.7	56.8
162	Queen's Gate Sch, C London Girls	29	21.2	56.7
163	Bablake Sch, Coventry, W Mids Mix	121	21.5	56.4
164	**Newport HS, Shropshire LEA Sel Girls**	33	17.9	56.4
165	Teesside HS, Stockton-on-Tees Girls	72	22.2	56.0
166	Red House Sch Ltd, Stockton-on-Tees Mix	39	25.5	55.9
167	King's Sch, Macclesfield, Cheshire Mix	208	20.8	55.9
168	St Martin's, Solihull, W Mids Girls	30	26.0	55.8
169	Francis Holland Sch Clarence Gate, C London Girls	56	18.1	55.8
170	Edgbaston C of E Coll, Birmingham Girls	24	15.7	55.8
171	Tormead Sch, Guildford, Surrey Girls	90	21.3	55.5
172	Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, Bristol Boys	78	19.3	55.5
173	Farlington Sch, Horsham, W Sussex Girls	40	18.5	55.5
174	Sherborne Sch, Sherborne, Dorset Girls	71	22.0	55.4
175	Twycross House Sch, Atherstone, Leics Mix	31	16.1	55.4
176	**Sutton Coldfield Girls HS, Birmingham**	153	17.5	55.3
177	**Clitheroe Royal Gram Sch, Lancashire GM Sel Mix**	124	19.5	55.2
178	Redland HS, Bristol Girls	64	18.5	55.2
179	Newcastle-under-Lyme Sch, Staffs Mix	166	19.1	55.1
180	Queenswood Sch, Hatfield, Herts Girls	71	18.8	55.1
181	Alice Ottley Sch, Worcester, Worcs Girls	73	19.3	55.0
182	Westholme Sch, Blackburn, Lancs Girls	97	20.6	54.8
183	Epsom Coll, Epsom, Surrey Mix	105	20.1	54.8
184	King Edward VI Sch, Southampton, Hants Mix	135	16.4	54.8
185	Notre Dame Sr Sch, Cobham, Surrey Girls	44	26.8	54.7
186	St Bede's Coll, Manchester Mix	131	20.8	54.7
187	**Rugby HS, Warwicks GM Sel Girls**	87	19.2	54.7
188	Leicester Gram Sch, Leics Mix	84	18.0	54.7
189	**Skipton Girls' HS, N Yorks LEA, Sel, Girls**	93	17.8	54.7
190	Dame Allan's Girls' Sch, Newcastle-u-Tyne Girls	55	21.8	54.6
191	**Tonbridge Gram Sch, Kent GM Sel Girls**	130	20.3	54.6
192	Royal Gram Sch, Worcester, Worcs Boys	101	18.7	54.4
193	Highgate Sch, N London Boys	129	17.3	54.3
194	Truro HS, Truro, Cornwall Girls	51	22.8	54.2
195	Magdalen Coll Sch, Oxford, Oxon Boys	78	20.6	54.2
196	Monmouth Sch, Monmouth, S Wales Boys	86	17.2	54.2
197	Harrogate Ladies' Coll, N Yorks Girls	55	24.1	54.0
198	Bedford Sch, Bedford, Beds Boys	143	22.9	54.0
199	King Henry VIII Sch, Coventry, W Mids Mix	125	17.3	54.0
200	**Ermysted's Gram Sch, Skipton, N Yorks Vol Sel Boys**	86	17.0	54.0
201	**Royal Gram Sch, High Wycombe, Bucks GM Sel Boys**	186	16.4	54.0
202	Oundle Sch, Peterborough, Northants Mix	173	19.1	53.9

	State Schools in bold type	No of pupils	% A*	% of all A-A*
203	Trinity Sch, Croydon, Surrey Boys	145	18.5	53.8
204	St Mary's Sch, Colchester, Essex Girls	43	23.5	53.6
205	King Edward's Sch, Bath, Somerset Mix	77	20.8	53.6
206	Burgess Hill Sch, Burgess Hill, W Sussex Girls	61	21.1	53.4
207	**Devonport HS, Plymouth, Devon LEA SEl Girls**	95	17.8	53.3
208	**Highworth Gram Sch, Kent, GM Sel Girls**	135	19.3	53.3
209	Dunottar Sch, Reigate, Surrey Girls	43	19.7	53.0
210	**Sir William Borlases Gram Sch LEA Sel Mix**	144	18.2	53.0
211	St Nicholas' Sch, Fleet, Hants Girls	37	17.1	52.8
212	**Skinner's Sch, Tunbridge Wells, Kent GM Sel Boys**	109	16.3	52.8
213	Bolton Sch, Bolton, Lancs Boys	134	14.3	52.7
214	Exeter Sch, Exeter, Devon Boys	93	17.9	52.6
215	Prior's Field, Godalming, Surrey Girls	41	23.2	52.4
216	Headington Sch, Oxford, Oxon Girls	83	20.3	52.4
217	Queen Elizabeth Gram Sch, Wakefield, W Yorks Boys	104	17.1	52.4
218	**Strathearn Sch, Belfast Vol Sel Girls**	103	16.6	52.2
219	Ipswich Sch, Ipswich, Suffolk Mix	91	19.1	52.1
220	Ockbrook Sch, Ockbrook, Derbys Girls	29	17.4	52.1
221	Norwich Sch, Norwich, Norfolk Boys	90	17.2	52.0
222	**Wallington Girls HS, Wallington GM Sel Girls**	128	14.8	52.0
223	**Maidstone Gram Sch, Kent LEA Sel Girls**	153	14.7	51.8
224	Dauntsey's Sch, Devizes, Wilts Mix	95	16.9	51.7
225	Solihull Sch, Solihull, W Mids Boys	116	13.7	51.7
226	St George's Sch, Ascot, Berks Girls	43	17.5	51.6
227	St Margaret's Sch, Watford, Herts Girls	53	11.5	51.4
228	**Westcliff HS, Essex GM Sel Girls**	126	16.7	51.3
229	Derby HS, Derby, Girls	46	24.2	51.0
230	Shrewsbury HS, Shrewsbury, Salop Girls	70	16.6	50.9
231	St Leonards-Mayfield Sch, Mayfield, E Sussex Girls	105	16.9	50.8
232	Beechwood Sacred Heart, Tunbridge Wells, Kent Girls	21	20.6	50.6
233	**St Patrick's Girls' Acad, Dungannon, NI Vol Sel Girls**	114	13.2	50.5
234	Hulme Gram Sch, Oldham, Lancs Girls	85	19.6	50.3
235	Bryanston Sch, Blandford, Dorset Mix	103	17.5	50.3
236	**Bishop Wordsworth Sch, Salisbury, Wilts GM Sel Boys**	116	16.5	50.3
237	Marlborough Coll, Marlborough, Wilts Mix	134	14.6	50.3
238	**Colchester Royal Gram Sch, Essex GM Sel Boys**	93	15.9	50.1
239	Casterton Sch, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria Girls	46	20.1	50.0
240	City of London Freemen's Sch, Ashtead, Surrey Mix	94	16.3	50.0
241	Princess Helena Coll, Hitchin, Herts Girls	21	12.9	50.0
242	**Coleraine HS, Coleraine, LEA Sel Girls**	116	15.7	49.9
243	**Blue Coat Sch, Liverpool LEA Sel Boys**	124	17.1	49.8
244	Wellington Coll, Crowthorne, Berks Boys	148	15.0	49.8
245	St Antony's-Leweston Sch, Sherborne, Dorset Girls	46	18.1	49.6
246	**Weald Of Kent Gram Sch, Tonbridge, Kent GM Sel Girls**	116	16.6	49.6
247	Bury Gram Sch, Bury, Lancs Boys	103	16.2	49.5
	Gravesend Gram Sch, Gravesend, Kent GM Sel Girls	112	16.2	49.5
249	**Simon Langton Gram Sch, Canterbury, Kent GM Sel Boys**	125	15.7	49.5
250	**Wilsons Sch, Wallington, Surrey GM Sel Boys**	119	11.1	49.5
251	British Sch of Brussels, Brussels Mix	66	20.4	49.4
252	Alleyn's Sch, C London Mix	134	16.0	49.3
253	Cheadle Hulme Sch, Cheadle, Cheshire Mix	132	20.0	49.2
254	Dixie Gram & Wolstan Prep Schs, Nuneaton, Leics Mix	33	14.5	49.0
255	Kingston Gram Sch, Kingston-upon-Thames Mix	92	14.8	48.9
	Wycombe High Sch, Bucks Vol Sel Girls	203	14.8	48.9
257	Cheltenham Coll, Cheltenham, Glos Mix	87	21.9	48.8
258	Churcher's Coll, Petersfield, Hants Mix	88	14.4	48.8
259	St Lawrence Coll, Ramsgate, Kent Mix	50	17.1	48.7
260	Ibstock Place Sch, C London Mix	40	15.7	48.4
261	Heathfield Sch, Ascot, Berks Girls	30	21.0	48.3
262	St Gerards Sch, Bangor, N Wales Mix	34	24.1	48.2
263	Oakham Sch, Oakham, Rutland Mix	159	17.3	48.2
264	Brighton Coll, Brighton, E Sussex Mix	88	12.2	48.2
265	Truro Sch, Truro, Cornwall Mix	101	15.5	48.0
266	**Ilford County HS, LEA Sel Boys**	120	14.0	48.0
267	**Bacup and Rawtenstall Gram, Lancs GM Sel Mix**	145	19.3	47.8
268	King Alfred Sch, London, NW London Mix	44	16.0	47.8
269	**Urmston Gram Sch, Trafford GM Sel Mix**	125	13.3	47.4
270	**Nonsuch HS, Cheam, Surrey GM Sel Girls**	134	12.8	47.4
271	La Sagesse HS, Newcastle-upon-Tyne Girls	58	15.6	47.3
272	Surbiton HS, Kingston-upon-Thames Girls	80	14.3	47.3
273	**High Sch for Girls, Gloucester, GM Sel Girls**	94	13.2	47.3
274	**West Kirby Gram Sch, Merseyside LEA Sel Girls**	187	19.5	47.2
275	**Sir Roger Manwood's Sch, Sandwich, Kent GM Sel Mix**	95	14.1	47.1
276	Christ's Hospital, Horsham, Sussex W Mix	108	16.8	46.9
277	St Edmund's Sch, Canterbury, Kent Mix	55	20.7	46.8
278	Canford Sch, Wimborne, Dorset Mix	96	14.9	46.8
279	St Mary's Sch, Cambridge Girls	88	14.1	46.7
280	Ashville Coll, Harrogate, N Yorks Mix	84	21.0	46.4
281	Wells Cathedral Sch, Wells, Somerset Mix	96	18.4	46.4
282	Ditcham Park Sch, Petersfield, Hants Mix	38	13.0	46.4
283	Sherborne Sch, Sherborne, Dorset Boys	108	14.4	46.3
284	John Lyon Sch, Harrow, NW London Boys	87	13.0	46.2
285	Luckley-Oakfield Sch, Wokingham, Berks Girls	43	15.8	46.1
286	**Crossley Heath Sch, Halifax, W Yorks GM Sel Mix**	122	15.0	46.0
287	**Spalding HS, Spalding, GM Sel Girls**	133	14.3	45.9
288	Malvern Coll, Malvern, Worcs Mix	92	14.2	45.9
289	**Rainey Endowed Sch, GM Sel Girls**	104	13.8	45.8
290	Gresham's Sch, Holt, Norfolk Mix	93	19.9	45.7
291	Highclare Sch, Birmingham, W Mids Girls	21	18.2	45.7
292	Northampton HS, Northants Girls	92	13.9	45.6
293	**Antrim Gram Sch, County Antrim LEA Sel Mix**	102	17.4	45.5
294	Warwick Sch, Warwick Boys	114	18.7	45.5
295	**Torquay Boys' Gram Sch, Devon GM Sel Boys**	146	13.7	45.3
296	Queen Mary's Sch, Thirsk, N Yorks Girls	33	18.1	45.2
297	Stonyhurst Coll, Clitheroe, Lancs Boys	62	18.0	45.2
298	**Dartford Gram Sch, Kent GM Sel Boys**	118	14.9	45.2
299	**Watford Gram Sch, Herts GM Comp Girls**	175	14.1	45.2
300	St Mary's Sch, Shaftesbury, Dorset Girls	58	12.7	45.2
301	Notre Dame Sch, Lingfield, Surrey Mix	30	15.8	45.1
302	Croham Hurst Sch, South Croydon, Surrey Girls	49	14.5	45.1
303	**Westcliff HS, Essex GM Sel Boys**	120	13.5	45.1
304	Mount Sch, York Girls	46	14.4	45.0
305	Reigate Gram Sch, Reigate, Surrey Mix	144	14.0	45.0
306	Colfe's Sch, S London Boys	100	12.2	45.0
307	New Hall Sch, Chelmsford, Essex Girls	68	17.6	44.9
308	Farnborough Hill, Farnborough, Hants Girls	82	14.8	44.9
309	St Anne's Sch, Windermere, Cumbria Girls	29	18.8	44.8
310	Queen's Coll, Taunton, Somerset Mix	92	12.4	44.8
311	Reading Blue Coat Sch, Reading, Berks Boys	82	11.4	44.8
312	**Dr Challoner's Gram Sch, Amersham, Bucks LEA Sel Boys**	170	11.9	44.7
313	Kimbolton Sch, Huntingdon, Cambs Mix	75	14.8	44.6
314	Bedales Sch, Petersfield, Hants Mix	76	16.2	44.3
315	Bedford HS, Bedford, Beds Girls	123	14.4	44.3
316	More House Sch, C London Girls	26	13.7	44.2
317	Mount Sch, NW London Girls	46	13.6	44.2
318	Haileybury, Hertford, Herts Mix	95	14.0	44.1
	St Patrick's Gram Sch, Armagh Vol Sel Boys	107	14.0	44.1
320	Parsons Mead Sch, Ashtead, Surrey Girls	36	13.2	44.1
321	Edgbaston HS, Birmingham Girls	71	12.7	44.1
322	**Rainham Mark Gram Sch, Kent GM Sel Mix**	162	10.4	43.9
323	Westfield Sch, Newcastle-upon-Tyne Girls	38	13.7	43.7
324	**Lady Margaret Sch, Parsons Green, London LEA Comp Girls**	67	14.1	43.6
325	**Stroud HS, Glos GM Sel Girls**	122	11.5	43.6
326	**Dartford Gram Sch, Dartford, Kent GM Sel Girls**	115	11.3	43.6
327	Birkenhead Sch, Birkenhead, Wirral Boys	99	15.2	43.5
328	Wychwood Sch, Oxford, Oxon Girls	25	13.0	43.5
329	**Aylesbury HS, Bucks LEA Sel Girls**	178	12.1	43.5
330	Birkdale Sch, Sheffield, S Yorks Boys	76	17.1	43.4
331	Plymouth Coll, Plymouth, Devon Mix	80	17.5	43.3
332	Moreton Hall Sch, Oswestry, Salop Girls	49	14.2	43.3
333	Uppingham Sch, Uppingham, Leics Boys	87	13.4	43.2
334	Ampleforth Coll, York Boys	103	13.2	43.1
335	Berkhamsted Collegiate Sch, Herts Mix	155	14.3	43.0
336	**Sacred Heart Gram, Newry, Co Down GM Sel Girls**	146	12.0	43.0
337	Immanuel Coll, Bushey, Herts Mix	51	18.5	42.9
338	Tower Coll, Rainhill, Mersey Mix	23	12.4	42.9
339	Queen's Coll London, C London Girls	48	10.2	42.9
340	**Queen Elizabeth' HS, Gainsborough LEA Sel Mix**	141	10.7	42.8
341	St Dominic's Sch, Brewood, Staffs Girls	38	8.7	42.6
342	**Ripon Gram Sch, Ripon, N Yorks LEA Sel Mix**	112	14.0	42.5
343	Colston's Girls' Sch, Bristol Girls	62	11.2	42.5
344	St Elphin's Sch, Matlock, Derbys Girls	20	19.6	42.4
345	Royal Sch, Bath, Somerset Girls	29	15.6	42.3
346	Hereford Cathedral Sch, Hereford Mix	98	10.5	42.3
347	Lancing Coll, Lancing, W Sussex W Boys	83	15.7	42.2
348	Taunton Sch, Taunton, Somerset Mix	88	16.0	42.1
349	**St Albans Girls Sch, Herts LEA Comp Girls**	167	17.0	42.0
350	**John Hampden, High Wycombe, Bucks GM Sel Boys**	98	12.0	42.0
351	**Southend HS, Southend, Essex GM Sel Girls**	122	11.1	42.0
352	Eastbourne Coll, Eastbourne, Sussex E Mix	95	13.9	41.9
353	**Dame Alice Owen's, Potters Bar, Herts GM Comp Mix**	201	11.3	41.9
354	Trent Coll, Nottingham, Derbys Mix	101	15.8	41.8
355	Kingswood Sch, Bath, Somerset Mix	74	13.0	41.8
356	**Chesham HS, Chesham, Bucks LEA Sel Mix**	134	12.2	41.8
357	**Our Lady's Gram Sch Vol Sel Girls**	126	10.8	41.8
358	Sydenham HS, London, Lond C Girls	63	15.5	41.7
359	Streatham Hill & Clapham HS, C Lond Girls	51	10.6	41.7
360	Stamford Sch, Stamford, Lincs Boys	108	9.8	41.7
361	Arnold Sch, Blackpool, Lancs Mix	123	11.8	41.6
362	**Townley Gram Sch, Bexleyheath, Kent LEA Sel Girls**	174	11.5	41.6
363	Rydal Penrhos Snr Sch, Colwyn Bay, Wales N Girls	32	14.4	41.5
364	Westonbirt Sch, Tetbury, Glos Girls	30	7.6	41.5
365	St Margaret's Sch, Exeter, Devon Girls	53	16.1	41.4
366	Wykeham House Sch, Fareham, Hants Girls	37	11.3	41.4
367	Prior Park Coll, Bath, Somerset Mix	98	13.1	41.3
368	**Torquay Gram Sch, Torquay, GM Sel Girls**	111	11.6	41.3
369	Forest Boys' Sch, NE London Boys	102	11.6	41.2
370	**Silverdale Sch, Sheffield LEA Comp Mix**	157	10.2	41.2
371	**Rochester Girls Gram, Rochester, GM Sel Girls**	148	9.4	41.2
372	Cranleigh Sch, Cranleigh, Surrey Boys	78	10.0	41.1
373	Atherley Sch, Southampton, Hants Girls	47	14.6	41.0
374	**Old Swinford Hospital, W Midlands GM Comp Boys**	82	12.0	41.0
375	**St Edwards College Liverpool GM Comp Mix**	120	14.1	40.9
376	Ackworth Sch, Pontefract, W Yorks Mix	58	12.9	40.9
377	Walthamstow Hall, Sevenoaks, Kent Girls	41	12.2	40.8
378	**St Ambrose College GM Sel Boys**	102	13.7	40.7
379	Brentwood Sch, Brentwood, Essex Mix	165	12.1	40.7
380	Yarm Sch, Yarm, Teesside Boys	83	11.9	40.7
381	**Cranbrook Sch, Cranbrook, Kent GM Sel Mix**	154	9.7	40.7
382	St Dominic's Priory Sch, Stone, Staffs Girls	36	16.0	40.6
383	**Aylesbury Gram, Bucks LEA Sel Boys**	185	12.8	40.6
384	Chigwell Sch, Chigwell, Essex Boys	68	12.3	40.5
385	King William's Coll, Isle of Man, IOM Mix	48	9.4	40.5
386	Kingsley Sch, Leamington Spa, Warwicks Girls	82	11.3	40.4
387	St Albans Sch, St Albans, Herts Boys	107	10.7	40.4
388	**Dr Challoner's HS, Amersham, Bucks GM Sel Girls**	150	16.4	40.2
389	**Ballyclare HS, Antrim LEA Sel Mix**	178	12.4	40.2
390	Leighton Park Sch, Reading, Berks Mix	87	14.1	40.1
391	Moira House Sch, Eastbourne, E Sussex Girls	51	9.9	40.1
392	King's Sch, Tynemouth Mix	111	16.6	40.0
393	Bromsgrove Sch, Bromsgrove, Worcs Mix	129	15.7	40.0
394	**Norton Knatchbull Sch, Ashford, Kent Vol Sel Boys**	120	13.5	40.0
395	Palmers Green HS, NE London Girls	28	12.4	40.0
396	**Gravesend Gram Sch, Kent GM Sel Boys**	137	10.0	40.0
	Heckmondwike Gram Sch, W Yorks GM Sel Mix	120	10.0	40.0
398	Wisbech Gram Sch, Wisbech, Cambs Mix	93	10.4	39.9
399	**Invicta Gram Sch, Maidstone, Kent LEA Sel Girls**	115	9.2	39.8
400	British Sch in the Netherlands Mix	71	14.1	39.7
401	**Altrincham Gram Sch, Cheshire GM Sel Boys**	140	12.6	39.6
402	Wellingborough Sch, Wellingborough, Northants Mix	87	14.6	39.5
403	St Benedict's Sch, NW London Boys	86	11.8	39.4
404	**Bourne Gram Sch, Bourne, Lincs LEA Sel Mix**	94	10.9	39.3

	State Schools in bold type	No of pupils	% A*	% of all A-A*
405	Felsted Sch, Dunmow, Essex Mix	65	10.1	39.3
406	**Queen Elizabeth's Gram, Horncastle, Lincs GM Sel Mix**	114	9.5	39.2
407	**Warden Park Cuckfield Sussex LEA Comp Mix**	276	7.4	39.2
408	Austin Friars Sch, Carlisle, Cumbria Mix	42	13.8	39.1
409	Kirkham Gram Sch, Preston, Lancs Mix	88	14.7	39.0
410	St Edmund's Coll, Ware, Herts Mix	68	11.8	39.0
411	Wellington Sch, Wellington, Somerset Mix	108	10.9	39.0
412	St John's College, Cardiff Mix	64	10.6	39.0
413	**King Edward VI, Aston, Birmingham GM Sel Boys**	95	10.0	39.0
414	Royal Sch, Haslemere, Surrey Girls	40	13.4	38.9
415	**Royal Latin Sch, Buckingham LEA Sel Mix**	146	9.9	38.9
416	Clifton Coll, Bristol Mix	136	12.7	38.8
417	St Teresa's Sch, Dorking, Surrey Girls	34	14.8	38.7
418	**Chislehurst and Sidcup Gram Sch, Kent LEA Sel Mix**	188	9.3	38.7
419	Holy Trinity Coll, Bromley, Kent Girls	41	7.9	38.7
420	Bedford Modern Sch, Bedford, Beds Boys	150	9.0	38.6
421	Bootham Sch, York, Mix	65	13.8	38.5
422	Queen Elizabeth's Gram Sch, Blackburn, Lancs Boys	117	15.2	38.3
423	La Retraite Sch, Salisbury, Wilts Girls	25	11.3	38.3
424	**Tunbridge Wells Gram Sch, Kent LEA Sel Boys**	147	11.0	38.2
425	Rougemont Sch, Newport, S Wales Mix	37	14.6	38.1
426	Royal Masonic Sch, Rickmansworth, Herts Girls	83	12.2	38.1
427	King Edward VII Sch, Lytham, Lancs Boys	71	10.9	38.1
428	**Beaconsfield High, Bucks GM Sel Girls**	149	10.0	38.0
429	Amberfield Sch, Ipswich, Suffolk Girls	33	11.9	37.9
430	Dean Close Sch, Cheltenham, Glos Mix	79	8.9	37.9
431	Elmslie Girls Sch, Blackpool, Lancs Girls	22	8.0	37.9
432	Downside Sch, Bath, Somerset Boys	29	15.3	37.8
433	Caterham Sch, Caterham, Surrey Mix	107	13.9	37.3
434	Rydal Penrhos Snr Sch, Colwyn Bay, Wales N Mix	65	11.3	37.3
435	St Mary's Convent Sch, Worcester, Worcs Girls	39	9.1	37.3
436	**Larne Gram, Larne, GM Sel Mix**	95	8.6	37.3
437	King's Sch, Ely, Cambs Mix	84	13.0	37.2
438	King's Sch, Worcester, Worcs Mix	128	11.6	37.2
439	**Calday Grange Gram Sch, W Kirby, Wirral GM Sel Boys**	177	10.8	37.1
440	**Maidstone Gram Sch, Kent LEA Sel Boys**	170	8.5	37.1
441	**Wirral Gram Merseyside GM Sel Boys**	144	13.0	37.0
442	**Poole Gram Sch, Poole GM Sel Boys**	138	12.0	37.0
443	St Columba's Coll, St Albans, Herts Boys	68	11.5	37.0
444	Pocklington Sch, York, Mix	94	11.1	37.0
445	Oratory Sch, Reading, Berks Boys	75	11.4	36.9
446	**Lawrence Sheriff Sch, Rugby LEA Sel Boys**	90	6.5	36.9
447	Scarisbrick Hall Sch, Ormskirk, Lancs Mix	43	15.8	36.8
448	**Wirral Gram Sch LEA Sel Girls**	163	11.6	36.8
449	Batley Gram Sch, Batley, W Yorks Mix	64	11.4	36.8
450	Gateways Sch, Leeds, W Yorks Girls	30	13.9	36.7
451	St David's Sr Sch, Ashford, Surrey Girls	41	12.5	36.7
	St Gabriels Sch, Newbury, Berks Girls	33	12.5	36.7
453	Blundell's Sch, Tiverton, Devon Mix	57	12.0	36.7
454	Monkton Combe Sch, Bath, Somerset Mix	57	10.5	36.6
455	Queen Mary Sch, Lytham, Lancs Girls	72	10.0	36.6
456	**Wallington Cnty Gram, Wallington, Surrey GM Sel Boys**	118	9.4	36.5
457	Farringtons & Stratford Hse, Chislehurst, Kent Girls	32	12.7	36.4
458	Kent Coll, Canterbury, Kent Mix	64	12.0	36.3
459	Greenacre Sch, Banstead, Surrey Girls	33	11.5	36.3
460	Millfield Sch, Street, Somerset Mix	214	9.7	36.3
461	Bloxham Sch, Banbury, Oxon Mix	54	8.1	36.2
462	**Carre's Gram Sch, Lincs GM Sel Boys**	78	11.2	36.1
463	**Adams Gram Sch, Newport, Shropshire GM Sel Boys**	97	12.0	36.0
	Devonport HS, Plymouth, Devon GM Sel Boys	134	12.0	36.0
465	Emanuel Sch, C London Mix	118	11.7	36.0
466	**Hasmonean HS, Barnet, N London GM Mix**	156	11.2	36.0
467	Ryde Sch, Ryde, IOW Mix	82	10.3	36.0
468	**Borden Gram, Sittingbourne, Kent LEA Sel Boys**	104	9.0	36.0
469	King's Coll, Taunton, Somerset Mix	83	13.5	35.9
470	St Maur's Sch, Weybridge, Surrey Girls	62	12.3	35.9
471	Stonar Sch, Melksham, Wilts Girls	69	12.3	35.8
472	**Coopers Coborn Sch, Essex GM Comp Mix**	180	11.5	35.8
473	Kings Monkton Sch, Cardiff, S Wales Mix	32	10.7	35.8
474	Mount Carmel Sch, Alderley Edge, Cheshire Girls	58	10.3	35.8
475	**Rainey Endowed, Magherafelt Co Londonderry Vol Sel Mix**	104	13.6	35.6
476	Abbot's Hill, Hemel Hempstead, Herts Girls	32	12.7	35.5
477	**Herts and Essex HS, Herts GM Comp Girls**	158	11.5	35.5
478	Pipers Corner Sch, High Wycombe, Bucks Girls	56	11.1	35.5
479	St Dunstan's Abbey Sch, Plymouth, Devon Girls	31	10.9	35.5
480	Culford Sch, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk Mix	81	11.7	35.4
481	**Queen Elizabeth's Sch, Barnet, Herts GM Sel Boys**	179	11.4	35.4
482	Arts Educational Sch, Tring, Herts Mix	39	9.8	35.4
483	**North Halifax Gram Sch, Halifax Sel GM Mix**	138	9.3	35.4
484	**Sir Henry Floyd Gram Sch, Aylesbury LEA Sel Mix**	133	8.1	35.4
485	**Skegness Gram Schl, Lincs GM Mix Sel**	73	10.4	35.3
486	Abbotsholme Sch, Uttoxeter, Derbys Mix	40	16.4	35.2
487	Ilford Ursuline HS, Ilford, NE London Girls	53	10.4	35.1
488	**Sale Gram Sch, Sale LEA Sel Mix**	178	8.7	35.1
489	Holy Trinity Sch, Kidderminster, Worcs Girls	30	9.2	35.0
490	**Bournemouth Sch, Bournemouth GM Sel Boys**	130	8.0	35.0
491	**Folkestone Sch, Kent GM Sel Girls**	158	11.0	34.9
492	St Edward's Sch, Oxford, Oxon Mix	94	9.0	34.9
493	Rossall Sch, Fleetwood, Lancs Mix	40	14.3	34.8
494	Liverpool Coll, Liverpool, Mix	85	14.2	34.8
495	St Bees Sch, St Bees, Cumbria Mix	43	8.3	34.8
496	Hull HS, Anlaby, E Yorks Girls	22	8.7	34.7
497	Giggleswick Sch, Settle, N Yorks Mix	72	10.2	34.6
498	Hulme Gram Sch, Oldham, Lancs Boys	105	7.3	34.6
499	Lord Wandsworth Coll, Hook, Hants Mix	76	8.8	34.5
500	**Coopers Company, Upminster, GM Comp Mix**	180	11.0	34.4
501	**Kings Sch, Grantham, Lincs GM Sel Boys**	128	9.9	34.4
502	St Catherine's Sch, Twickenham, SW London Girls	26	9.0	34.4
503	Manor House Sch, Little Bookham, Surrey Girls	27	7.7	34.4
504	Polam Hall Sch, Darlington, Durham Girls	61	12.3	34.2
505	Leys Sch, Cambridge, Mix	75	10.4	34.2
506	**Ribston Hall HS, Glos GM Sel Girls**	98	9.4	34.2
507	**Chatham Gram Sch,Kent GM Sel Girls**	121	6.2	34.2
508	Hurtwood House, Dorking, Surrey Mix	51	17.4	34.1
509	**Coloma Convent Girls' Sch, Croydon GM Comp Girls**	117	12.8	34.1
510	**Kesteven and Grantham Girls Sch, GM SEl Girls**	147	8.9	34.1
511	St George's Coll, Weybridge, Surrey Mix	84	8.0	34.1
512	St Mary's Hall, Brighton, E Sussex Girls	30	6.6	34.0
513	Our Lady's Convent Sr Sch, Abingdon, Oxon Girls	45	7.5	33.9
514	Royal Sch, Dungannon, N Ire Mix	104	7.0	33.9
515	**St Bernard's Convent Sch, Slough LEA Sel Girls**	128	5.7	33.8
516	Lincoln Minster Sch, Lincoln Mix	42	10.5	33.7
517	**St George's Sch, Harpenden, Herts Vol Comp Mix**	149	10.8	33.6
518	Newcastle U Tyne Church HS, Newcastle Girls	57	11.8	33.5
519	**King's Sch, Peterborough GM Sel Mix**	131	10.6	33.4
520	**Sacred Heart Of Mary, Upminster, Essex GM Comp Girls**	120	5.1	33.4
521	St Mary & St Anne, Rugeley, Staffs Girls	31	14.5	33.3
522	Hammond Sch, Chester, Cheshire Girls	22	12.6	33.2
523	Rendcomb Coll, Cirencester, Glos Mix	35	9.1	33.2
524	**Watford Gram Sch, Watford GM Comp Boys**	165	9.6	33.1
525	**Jews Free Sch, Camden, London GM Comp Mix**	229	11.0	33.0
526	**Archbishop Tenison CofE HS, Croydon, Surrey Vol Comp Mix**	69	10.0	33.0
527	**Down HS, Downpatrick, Co Down NI Gram Sel Mix**	103	8.0	33.0
528	**Harvey Gram Sch, Folkestone, Kent LEA Sel Boys**	121	7.0	33.0
529	St Joseph's Sch, Launceston, Cornwall Girls	25	6.7	33.0
530	**Cardiff HS, Cardiff LEA Comp Mix**	191	13.3	32.9
531	Mill Hill Sch, NW London Mix	101	8.5	32.9
532	Our Lady of Sion Sch, Worthing, W Sussex Mix	60	7.4	32.8
533	**Dover Gram Sch, Dover, Kent GM Sel Boys**	74	12.8	32.7
534	Cranbrook Coll, Ilford, NE London Boys	25	10.6	32.7
535	Stafford Gram Sch, Staffs Mix	43	9.8	32.6
536	Hollygirt Sch, Nottingham, Notts Girls	48	8.9	32.3
537	Victoria Coll, Jersey, C.I. Boys	84	12.7	32.2
538	Ardingly Coll, Haywards Heath, W Sussex Mix	82	10.0	32.1
539	Bishop's Stortford Coll, Herts Mix	66	6.8	32.1
540	**Boston HS, Lincs LEA Sel Girls**	104	10.0	32.0
541	Christ Coll, Brecon, S Wales Mix	55	7.8	32.0
542	St Dunstan's Coll, SE London, Mix	63	7.7	31.9
543	Churston Gram, Brixham, Devon	118	9.7	31.8
	Combe Bank Sch, Sevenoaks, Kent Girls	32	9.7	31.8
545	St Mary's Coll, Liverpool, Mix	84	9.3	31.8
546	**Sutton Gram Sch, Sutton, Surrey GM Sel Boys**	109	7.6	31.8
547	**Kesteven & Sleaford HS, Sleaford, Lincs LEA Sel Girls**	97	11.9	31.7
548	**Southend HS, Southend, Essex GM Sel Boys**	121	7.9	31.6
549	**Comberton Village Coll, Cambs, GM Comp Mix**	163	11.4	31.5
550	Culcheth Hall, Altrincham, Cheshire Girls	34	3.0	31.5
551	Gordonstoun Sch, Elgin, Scotland Mix	73	11.2	31.4
552	**Bassingbourn Village College, Royston, GM Comp Mix**	65	10.8	31.3
553	Presentation Coll, Reading, Berks Boys	35	10.4	31.2
554	**Marling Sch, Stroud, Glos GM Sel Boys**	118	8.8	31.2
555	West Buckland Sch, Barnstaple, Devon Mix	74	8.6	31.1
556	Lavant House Rosemead, Chichester, W Sussex Girls	21	11.9	30.8
557	**Clarendon House Gram Sch, Kent, LEA, Sel Girls**	117	9.6	30.8
558	Peterborough & St Margarets Sch, Stanmore, NW London Girls	20	8.2	30.8
559	**Sir Thomas Rich's Sch, Gloucs, GM Sel Boys**	109	7.0	30.8
560	**King Edwards VI Sch, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Vol Sel Boys**	62	5.9	30.7
561	Shebbear Coll, Beaworthy, Devon Mix	34	12.1	30.6
562	Towers Convent Sch, Steyning, Sussex W Girls	28	5.3	30.6
563	Ealing Coll Upper Sch, NW London Boys	20	8.5	30.5
564	**King Edward VI, Five Ways, Birmingham GM Sel Boys**	98	6.2	30.5
565	Bristol Cathedral Sch, Bristol Boys	72	9.4	30.4
566	**London Oratory Sch, London GM Comp Mix**	177	7.4	30.4
567	Durham Sch, Durham Mix	43	6.0	30.4
568	Elizabeth Coll, Guernsey, CI Boys	78	11.4	30.2
569	Woodbridge Sch, Woodbridge, Suffolk Mix	60	9.8	30.2
570	Thetford Gram Sch, Thetford, Norfolk Mix	34	8.4	30.0
571	Framlingham Coll, Woodbridge, Suffolk Mix	86	8.2	30.0
572	**Dane Court Gram, Broadstairs, Kent GM Sel Mix**	172	8.0	30.0
573	**Strabane Gram Sch, County Tyrone LEA Sel Mix**	56	5.0	30.0
574	Ellesmere Coll, Ellesmere, Salop Mix	60	7.8	29.9
575	**St Hilda RC Girls HS, Burnley, Lancs Vol Comp Girls**	113	10.3	29.8
576	Stover Sch, Newton Abbot, Devon Girls	39	7.1	29.8
577	**Plymouth HighSch, Devon LEA Sel Girls**	96	6.7	29.7
578	Woodhouse Grove Sch, Apperley Bridge, W Yorks Mix	93	8.3	29.6
579	Royal Hospital Sch, Ipswich, Suffolk Mix	90	5.0	29.6
580	Grenville Coll, Bideford, Devon Mix	44	6.4	29.4
581	**Stretford Gram, Stretford, Manchester LEA Sel Mix**	89	5.1	29.3
582	Bradfield Coll, Reading, Berks Boys	90	7.4	29.2
583	**Queen Elizabeth's Gram, Faversham, Kent GM Sel Mix**	152	6.2	29.2
584	**Sir Joseph Williamson, Rochester, Kent, LEA Sel Boys**	133	7.9	29.1
585	**St Augustine's RC Comp Sch, Trowbridge GM Comp Mix**	126	7.5	29.1
586	Brigidine Sch, Windsor, Berks Girls	38	7.0	29.1
587	**Nailsea Sch, North Somerset LEA Comp Mix**	230	4.4	29.1
588	Claremont Fan Court Sch, Esher, Surrey Mix	58	9.4	29.0
589	**Guildford County Sch, Guildford GM Comp Mix**	148	9.0	29.0
590	Scarborough Coll, Scarborough, N Yorks Mix	54	7.2	28.9
591	**Burnham Gram, Bucks LEA Sel mix**	127	6.7	28.8
592	Wycliffe Coll, Stonehouse, Glos Mix	59	8.5	28.7
593	William Hulme's Gram Sch, Manchester, Mix	106	4.6	28.7
594	Lodge Schs, Purley, SE London Girls	22	3.4	28.7
595	**Cowbridge Comp, Cowbridge, Glamorgan, LEA Comp Mix**	184	10.7	28.6
596	**Newlands, Maidenhead, Berks, LEA Comp Girls**	179	7.1	28.6
597	St Ursula's HS, Bristol Mix	25	10.0	28.5
598	**St Malachys College, Belfast GM Comp Boys**	155	6.8	28.4
599	**Wilmington Gram, Wilmington Kent GM Sel Mix**	115	5.3	28.4
600	St John's Sch, Leatherhead, Surrey Boys	78	5.5	28.3
601	Oswestry Sch, Oswestry, Salop Mix	52	5.4	28.3
602	Friends Sch, Saffron Walden, Essex Mix	29	11.1	28.2
603	**Bullers Wood, Chislehurst, Kent GM Comp Girls**	177	8.5	28.2
604	Park Sch, Ilford, Essex Girls	29	6.2	28.2
605	**King Edward VI Gram Sch, Louth, GM Sel Mix**	136	8.3	28.1
606	Wispers Sch, Haslemere, Surrey Girls	22	6.4	28.1

	State Schools in bold type	No of pupils	% A*	% of all A-A*
607	**Lampeter CS Sch, Dyfed, LEA Comp Mix**	114	12.0	28.0
608	**Carlean Comp, Carleon, Newport LEA Comp Mix**	224	8.0	28.0
609	King's Sch, Bruton, Somerset Mix	60	6.0	28.0
610	Meoncross Sch, Fareham, Hants Mix	29	6.4	27.9
611	**Langley Gram Sch, Berks, GM Sel Mix**	120	6.1	27.8
612	Wrekin Coll, Telford, Salop Mix	45	7.6	27.6
613	Peterborough HS, Peterborough, Cambs Girls	25	5.7	27.6
614	**Haybridge HS, Stourbridge, LEA Comp Mix**	149	7.9	27.5
615	**Arden Sch, Solihull, LEA Comp Mix**	203	7.5	27.5
616	**Ranelagh Sch, Bracknell, Berks LEA Comp Mix**	123	6.9	27.3
617	Duke of York's Royal Military Sch, Dover, Kent Mix	81	6.1	27.3
618	**Limavady Gram Sch, GM Sel Mix**	129	5.4	27.2
619	**Bexley Gram Sch, Welling, GM Comp Mix**	153	7.2	27.1
620	**Highsted Sch, Sittingbourne, Kent LEA Sel Girls**	124	5.1	27.1
621	**Tapton Sch, Sheffield, LEA Comp Mix**	221	10.0	27.0
622	Rye St Antony Sch, Oxford, Oxon Girls	46	9.2	27.0
623	**Spalding Gram, Spalding, Lincs Vol Sel Boys**	95	6.3	27.0
624	St Edward's Sch, Cheltenham, Glos Mix	79	7.6	26.9
625	**Cardinal Vaughn Memorial Sch, London GM Comp Boys**	95	7.1	26.9
626	Frensham Heights, Farnham, Surrey Mix	51	6.2	26.9
627	**Emmanuel CTC, Gateshead Comp Mix**	202	6.1	26.9
628	**Lady Manners Sch, Bakewell, Derbyshire GM Comp Mix**	222	9.6	26.8
629	Tettenhall Coll, Wolverhampton, W Mids Mix	42	8.8	26.8
630	Stowe Sch, Buckingham, Bucks Boys	90	6.6	26.8
631	Barnard Castle Sch, Barnard Castle, Durham Mix	73	5.9	26.7
632	Claires Court Sch, Maidenhead, Berks Boys	60	9.5	26.6
633	Royal Wolverhampton Sch, W Mids Mix	39	7.4	26.6
634	**Fort Pitt Gram Chatham, Kent LEA Sel Girls**	91	7.3	26.6
635	**Robert Mays Sch, Basingstoke, Hants LEA Comp Mix**	201	8.5	26.5
636	Salesian Coll, Farnborough, Hants Boys	79	8.2	26.5
637	King Edward's Sch, Godalming, Surrey Mix	70	6.3	26.5
638	**Tarporley County HS, Cheshire LEA Comp Mix**	150	10.3	26.4
639	Douai Sch, Reading, Berks Mix	25	10.7	26.3
640	**Harrogate Gram Sch, N Yorks LEA Comp Mix**	240	7.8	26.2
641	**Cookstown High, Cookstown, County Tyrone Gm Comp Mix**	178	2.7	26.1
642	Wentworth Coll, Bournemouth, Dorset Girls	35	11.7	26.0
643	Worksop Coll, Worksop, Notts Mix	80	5.7	26.0
644	**Virgo Fidelis Convent Snr Sch, London GM Comp Girls**	24	4.0	26.0
645	**Bishop Stopford Sch, Kettering, Northants Vol Comp Mix**	193	7.6	25.6
646	Hurstpierpoint Coll, Hassocks, Sussex W Mix	55	4.0	25.6
647	**Isles of Scilly Sendry Sch, Isles of Scilly LEA Comp Mix**	21	2.9	25.6
648	Hull Gram Sch, Kingston upon Hull, Yorks E Mix	46	5.9	25.5
649	**Millais Sch, Horsham, LEA Comp Girls**	240	7.5	25.4
650	**Ilkley Gram, West Yorkshire LEA Comp Mix**	248	9.8	25.2
651	Sutton Valence Sch, Maidstone, Kent Mix	48	5.9	25.2
652	**St Ursula's Convent, Greenwich, London LEA Comp Girls**	111	8.5	25.1
653	St Mary's Sch, Wantage, Oxon Girls	38	7.6	25.1
654	**Romsey Sch, LEA Comp Mix**	195	7.0	25.0
655	**Parmiters Sch, Watford, GM Comp Mix**	181	6.9	25.0
656	Silcoates Sch, Wakefield, W Yorks Mix	69	6.5	25.0
657	St Bede's Sch, Hailsham, E Sussex Mix	93	5.7	24.9
658	Quinton House Sch, Northampton, Northants Mix	21	4.8	24.9
659	**Rickmansworth Sch, Herts GM Comp Mix**	171	6.6	24.8
660	Queen Ethelburga's Coll, York Girls	37	6.2	24.7
661	Kelly Coll, Tavistock, Devon Mix	43	5.9	24.7
662	Mount St Mary's Coll, Derbys Mix	52	5.8	24.7
663	Dover Coll, Dover, Kent Mix	37	4.7	24.7
664	St Joseph's Sch, Kenilworth, Warwicks Girls	34	4.3	24.7
665	Rushmoor Sch, Bedford, Beds Mix	29	3.4	24.7
666	**Y Pant Sch, Mid Glamorgan, GM Comp Mix**	144	10.6	24.6
667	**King Edward VI Sch, Sheffield LEA Comp Mix**	222	5.2	24.6
668	King's Sch, Gloucester, Glos Mix	51	5.0	24.6
669	**King David HS, Liverpool LEA Comp Mix**	90	8.1	24.5
670	**Holt Sch, Wokingham LEA Comp Girls**	187	6.8	24.5
671	**Katharine Lady Berkeleys Sch, Glos GM Comp Mix**	218	8.5	24.4
672	Abbey Gate Coll, Chester, Cheshire Mix	45	5.0	24.4
673	**Warden Park Sch, Haywards Heath, LEA Comp Mix**	276	7.4	24.3
674	**Beaumont Sch, St Albans, Herts LEA Comp Mix**	159	6.1	24.3
675	Thornton Coll-Cnvnt of Jesus, Milton Keynes, Bucks Girls	33	6.8	24.2
676	**Haberdashers Askes, London CTC Comp Mix**	174	6.1	24.2
677	**Durham Johnston Comp, Durham LEA Comp Mix**	245	9.3	24.1
678	**Chiltern Edge Sch, Reading, LEA Comp Mix**	195	8.0	24.0
679	Ballard Coll, New Milton, Hants Mix	20	6.7	24.0
680	Trinity Sch, Teignmouth, Devon Mix	22	6.1	24.0
681	**Penglais Sch, Aberystwyth LEA Comp Mix**	172	10.0	23.9
682	St James's and The Abbey, West Malvern, Worcs Girls	26	6.1	23.9
683	**Queen Elizabeth, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria GM Comp Mix**	151	8.2	23.8
684	**Saffron Walden County HS, Essex GM Comp Mix**	298	7.2	23.8
685	**Handsworth Gram Sch,Birmingham GM Sel Boys**	119	7.0	23.8
686	Bedgebury Sch, Cranbrook, Kent Girls	35	6.8	23.8
	St Aidan's CofE HS, Harrogate, N Yorks Vol Comp Mix	243	6.8	23.8
688	**St Johns Marlborough GM Comp Mix**	217	8.2	23.7
689	**King Edward VI Sch, Lichfield, Staffordshire**	206	5.8	23.6
690	**Hutton Gram Sch, Lancs, Vol Comp Boys**	123	7.4	23.5
691	**St Josephs College, Stoke on Trent, GM Sel Mix**	41	4.4	23.5
692	Battle Abbey Sch, Battle, E Sussex Mix	22	8.5	23.4
693	**Wellsway Sch, Bristol, LEA Comp Mix**	209	6.0	23.4
694	King's Sch Rochester, Rochester, Kent Mix	55	5.6	23.4
695	**Lurgan College, Lurgan, LEA Sel Mix**	110	4.2	23.4
696	**Herschel Gram Sch, Slough, GM Sel Mix**	87	4.0	23.4
697	**Bishop Luffa CofE Sch, Chichester, Vol Comp Mix**	201	5.7	23.3
698	St Christopher Sch, Letchworth, Herts Mix	59	5.0	23.3
699	**Chatham House Gram Sch, Chatham, GM Sel Boys**	96	3.8	23.3
700	North Foreland Lodge, Hook, Hants Girls	25	3.6	23.3
701	**Howard of Effingham Sch, Surrey, LEA Comp Mix**	224	6.9	23.2
702	**Sandbach HS, Cheshire, LEA Comp Girls**	173	5.8	23.2
703	**Lincoln Christs Hospital Sch, GM Comp Mix**	171	5.3	23.2
704	**Helsby HS, Cheshire, LEA Comp Mix**	222	4.7	23.2
705	**Christleton County HS, Chester, LEA Comp Mix**	200	10.1	23.1
706	**Llanidloes HS, Powys, LEA Comp Mix**	93	9.7	23.1
707	**Fallibroome HS, Cheshire, GM Comp Mix**	177	7.0	23.1
708	**Wilmslow HS, Wilmslow, Cheshire LEA Comp Mix**	204	9.0	23.0
709	**Beechen Cliff Gram Sch, Bath, GM Comp Boys**	160	6.7	23.0
710	**Bishop's Stortford HS, Herts GM Comp Boys**	152	6.0	23.0
	Green Sch, Isleworth, Middx Vol, Comp, Girls	130	6.0	23.0
712	**Sacred Heart of Mary Girls, Upminster, GM Comp Girls**	120	5.0	23.0
713	Sedbergh Sch, Sedbergh, Cumbria Boys	63	7.6	22.9
714	**Bishop of Llandaff CIW HS, Cardiff, Vol Comp Mix**	180	7.3	22.9
715	**Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf, S Glamorgan, LEA Comp**	237	6.7	22.9
716	**George Abbot Sch, Guildford, LEA Comp Mix**	284	6.1	22.9
717	Ursuline Coll, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent Mix	42	5.5	22.8
718	St Andrew's Sch, Bedford, Beds Girls	30	4.2	22.8
719	Edgehill Coll, Bideford, Devon Mix	42	4.0	22.8
720	**Gumley House Convent Sch, Isleworth, GM Comp Girls**	172	7.4	22.7
721	Hethersett Old Hall Sch, Norwich, Norfolk Girls	37	5.0	22.7
722	**Benton Park Sch, Yorkshire, LEA Comp Mix**	223	7.3	22.6
723	**Brine Leas HS, Cheshire, LEA Comp Mix**	188	6.1	22.6
724	**Backwell Sch, North Somerset, LEA Comp Mix**	238	5.6	22.6
725	Ruthin Sch, Ruthin, Wales N Mix	23	3.7	22.6
726	**Cirencester Deer Park Sch, Cirencester, GM Comp Mix**	196	6.6	22.5
727	**Davison HS, Worthing, LEA Comp Girls**	204	6.1	22.5
728	**Oxted County Sch, Oxted, Surrey LEA Comp Mix**	297	5.7	22.5
729	**Yateley Sch, Yateley, Hants LEA Comp Mix**	273	6.7	22.4
730	**Claverham Community Coll, East Sussex, LEA Comp Mix**	194	6.5	22.4
	Westgate Sch, Winchester, LEA Comp Mix	181	6.5	22.4
732	Old Grammar Sch, Lewes, E Sussex Mix	40	3.6	22.4
733	**Camden Sch, London, LEA Comp Girls**	111	6.1	22.3
734	Reed's Sch, Cobham, Surrey Boys	64	3.7	22.3
735	**St Nicholas RC HS, Cheshire, LEA Comp Mix**	167	5.5	22.2
736	**St Gregorys Sch, Bath, Vol Comp Mix**	135	6.9	22.0
737	**Fulford Sch, York, LEA Comp Mix**	180	5.5	22.0
738	Fulneck Sch, Pudsey, Yorks W Mix	42	7.0	21.9
739	**West Bridgford Sch, Notts, LEA Comp Mix**	229	6.1	21.8
740	**Courtmoor Sch, Fleet, LEA Comp Mix**	152	7.5	21.7
741	**Bishopson Sch, W Glamorgan, LEA Comp**	194	6.7	21.7
742	**Coombe Girls Sch, New Malden, LEA Comp Girls**	180	6.0	21.7
743	**Winston Churchill Sch, Woking, GM Comp Mix**	256	5.7	21.7
744	Colston's Collegiate Sch, Bristol Mix	66	2.5	21.7
745	**Cottenham Village College, Cambridge, LEA Comp Mix**	148	8.7	21.6
746	Warminster Sch, Warminster, Wilts Mix	54	6.8	21.6
747	**Poynton County HS, Stockport, LEA Comp Mix**	283	6.5	21.6
748	**Heathfield HS, Cheshire, LEA Comp Mix**	138	5.4	21.6
749	St John's Sch, Billericay, Essex Mix	24	4.9	21.6
750	Arts Educational Sch London, NW London Mix	22	3.7	21.6
751	**St Thomas More Catholic HS, Crewe, LEA Comp Mix**	91	7.2	21.5
752	**William Harris Sch, Brampton, GM Comp Mix**	149	6.9	21.5
753	**Davenant Foundation Sch, Loughton, GM Comp Mix**	146	5.0	21.5
754	Hulme Hall Schs, Cheadle Hulme, Manch Mix	51	2.3	21.4
755	**Westfield Community Sch, Somerset, LEA Comp Mix**	170	6.3	21.3
756	**Broughton County HS, Preston, LEA Comp Mix**	177	8.9	21.2
757	**Arnewood Sch, New Milton, GM Comp Mix**	247	7.0	21.0
758	**Debenham HS, Suffolk, Vol Comp Mix**	78	6.4	21.0
759	**Minster Sch, Southwell, Vol Comp Mix**	234	6.0	21.0
	Nower Hill HS, Pinner, NW London LEA Comp Mix	294	6.0	21.0
761	**Waldgrave Sch, Middlesex, LEA Comp Girls**	193	4.5	21.0
762	Bedstone Coll, Bucknell, Salop Mix	31	2.2	21.0
763	**Castle Sch, Taunton, Somerset LEA Comp Mix**	200	7.2	20.9
764	**Marlwood Sch, Bristol, LEA Comp Mix**	187	6.8	20.9
765	**Wymondham College, Norfolk, GM Comp Mix**	138	5.3	20.9
766	**Therfield Sch, Leatherhead LEA Comp Mix**	219	4.9	20.9
767	Gregg Sch, Southampton, Hants Mix	50	5.1	20.8
768	Royal Russell Sch, Croydon, Surrey Mix	70	3.6	20.8
769	**St Anselms College, Birkenhead, GM Sel Boys**	99	9.4	20.7
770	**Conyers Sch, Stockton-On-Tees, LEA Comp Mix**	195	6.2	20.7
771	Llandovery Coll, Llandovery, S Wales Mix	40	5.4	20.7
772	Denstone Coll, Uttoxeter, Staffs Mix	57	4.7	20.7
	High Storrs Sch, Sheffield, LEA Comp Mix	231	4.7	20.7
774	**Parklands HS, Chorley LEA Comp Girls**	205	4.6	20.7
775	**Community Coll, Chulmleigh, Chulmleigh LEA Comp Mix**	89	6.5	20.5
776	Clayesmore Sch, Blandford, Dorset Mix	73	7.9	20.2
777	**Mill Hill HS London GM Comp Mix**	202	4.7	20.2
778	Licensed Victuallers' Sch, Ascot, Berks Mix	84	5.0	20.1
779	**Ryedale Sch, N Yorks, LEA Comp Girls**	147	5.0	20.0
780	**Penwortham Girls HS, Preston LEA Comp Girls**	147	4.0	20.0
781	Stoke Coll, Sudbury, Suffolk Mix	24	7.9	19.8
782	Newlands Manor Sch, Seaford, Sussex E Mix	45	5.3	19.8
783	**Egglescliffe, Stockton on Tees, Comp Mix**	224	4.4	19.8
784	**Alsager Sch, Cheshire, LEA Comp Mix**	223	6.8	19.7
785	**Boston Gram Sch, Lincs, Sel Boys**	90	3.2	19.7
786	Bellerbys Coll Mayfield, Mayfield, Sussex E Boys	26	9.7	19.4
787	**Trinity Comp Sch, Nottingham, GM Comp Mix**	120	4.9	19.4
788	**Bishop Herber HS, Cheshire, LEA Comp Mix**	177	4.6	19.4
789	St John's Coll, Southsea, Hants Mix	87	3.5	19.4
790	**Llandrindod HS, Powys, LEA Comp Mix**	116	6.0	19.3
791	**Charters Sch, Berkshire, LEA Comp Mix**	201	5.2	19.3
	Queen Elizabeths Gram Sch, Lincs, GM Sel Mix	69	5.2	19.3
793	Hipperholme Gram Sch, Halifax, W Yorks Mix	64	3.8	19.3
794	**Eastcliffe Gram Sch, Gosforth Mix**	30	7.8	19.2
795	**St Hildas CE HS, Liverpool, GM Comp Girls**	136	6.2	19.2
796	Adcote Sch, Shrewsbury, Salop Girls	23	3.0	19.2
797	**Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron, Ceredigion**	141	6.2	19.0
798	**St John the Baptist, Surrey, GM Comp Mix**	120	6.0	19.0
799	**All Hallows Catholic HS, Cheshire, LEA Comp Mix**	175	5.0	19.0
	Bartholomew Sch, Oxon, LEA Comp Mix	120	5.0	19.0
801	**St Bartholomews Sch, Berks, GM Comp Mix**	194	4.5	19.0
802	**Calthorpe Park Sch, Hampshire, Lea Comp Mix**	170	4.0	19.0

Columns show number of GCSE candidates, percentage of subjects passed at A and percentage at A and A*. State schools in bold. Key: LEA = local authority school. GM = grant-maintained school. Vol = voluntary-aided school. CTC = city technology college. Sel = selective, Comp = comprehensive. HS = high school*

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	136.64	145.62	-1.14	
-do- NAV to Jan 19	137.71	137.71		
UK Equity Safeguard	109.13	116.61†	-1.54	2.02
-do- NAV to Jan 19	108.95	108.95		
US Eqy Safeguard	89.113	94.6146	-4.46	
Cash	954.94	959.71	+1.00	6.25
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	368.10	390.20	-9.50	
UK Small Cos	77.35	82.72	-0.59	0.59
FTSE 250 Index	94.44	101.01	-0.35	1.88
Geared UK Index	2050.67	2164.90	-221.00	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	83.12	85.90	..	6.09
Monthly Inc	41.58	44.43†	-0.76	7.98
International Funds				
American Gen	301.80	319.40	-21.30	
American Smll	160.00	171.12	-12.34	
JG US Index	2254.72	2375.49	-233.00	4.50
European Gen	391.70	414.50	+14.60	
European Smll	171.85	183.79	+5.08	
Japan Gen	89.38	94.27	+2.87	
Asia Pacific	48.62	51.79	+1.31	1.09
Pacific Smll	70.80	75.72	-0.16	
Greater China	120.40	128.77	+7.89	
Latin America	52.35	55.98	-2.23	
Intl Growth	164.42	175.80	-2.34	0.11
Balanced Exempt	160.80	166.70	..	1.70
Global Strategy	40.40	43.20	-0.94	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
AXA Equity & Law Unit Tst				
Balanced Acc	73.09	77.66	-2.40	2.19
Balanced Inc	66.25	70.48	-2.17	2.19
Brit Excell	114.30	121.60	-5.00	2.18
Brit Fxdints Acc	152.70	162.40	-4.80	4.26
Brit Fxdints Inc	96.90	102.80	-2.90	4.26
Europe	504.50	536.70	-11.90	0.45
General Acc	837.60	891.10	-28.20	2.19
General Inc	679.30	722.70	-22.90	2.19
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	251.20	265.20	-0.70	5.61
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	99.85	105.20†	-2.88	5.61
Global Opps	114.20	121.50	-4.90	0.22
Higher Inc Acc #	1107.00	1178.00	-41.00	4.26
Higher Inc Inc #	580.20	596.00	-20.80	4.26
Japan Acc	28.59	30.42	+1.41	
Nth America	427.80	455.10	-25.80	
Pac Basin Acc	207.20	220.40	-1.80	4.14
UK Growth Acc	577.10	613.90	-19.40	2.13
UK Growth Inc	382.50	386.80	-13.20	2.13
AXA Sun Life Trusts				
Discretionary	58.71	62.46	-3.54	
Extra Inc Inc #	40.77	43.09	-0.31	5.84
High Yld Inc	111.90	119.00†	-4.10	3.59
Inc & Gth Inc	186.50	113.00	-3.40	2.49
Pacific Grth Port	25.02	26.62	-0.43	1.15
UK Income Inc	74.55	78.31	-2.66	2.56
Uk Smaller Cos	40.60	43.19	-2.01	2.13
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	150.70	158.90†	-2.80	5.57
High Inc Equity	220.10	235.40	-1.10	4.40
Worldwide Bond	282.50	298.80†	+0.80	3.51
American Growth	524.80	580.50	-33.90	0.24
Asian Pacific	143.80	153.80	-1.10	0.61
Assets & Earnings	342.70	366.00	-2.00	2.79
Euro Capital Acc	271.90	290.80	+11.10	0.25
Extra Inc	41.56	44.21†	-0.03	5.86
General	305.90	325.40†	-2.10	2.97
Global Opps	70.97	75.50	+0.33	0.42
Japan	67.38	72.08	+3.41	
Managed Inc	53.36	56.77†	-0.08	4.49
Mastertrust	181.60	194.20	-1.50	1.24
US Emerging Cos	190.50	204.10	-14.70	
Ethical	88.81	94.45	-1.26	1.92
International	140.40	150.20	-0.80	
Dividend & Growth	81.94	87.17	-0.61	3.53
Global Grth & Sec	80.71	86.14	-0.63	2.02
Latin America	41.58	44.47	-1.75	1.51
Capital Reserve	159.80	159.90	-0.20	4.37
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
M&P UK Growth	111.00	118.00	-2.20	1.94
Equity Income #	153.10	162.80	-2.60	3.97
Extra Income #	303.50	322.30	-4.30	4.88
Smaller Cos	85.01	90.43†	-2.07	2.70
International	133.40	141.90†	-0.70	1.14
ABERDEEN PROLIFIC UT MGRS LTD				
Enq: 0345 886 666 Dlg: 0800 833 580				
Amer Opp Acc	303.54	319.55	-23.06	
Asia Pacific	41.87	44.39	+0.24	1.42
Emrg Mkts Inc	33.66	35.61	-2.08	1.19
Ethical Inc	82.38	87.17	-1.55	0.91
Euro Grwth Acc	129.70	136.12	+0.99	
Euro Spec Opps Acc	136.90	144.30	-1.84	
Extra Inc Inc	204.91	216.82	-2.80	4.25
Extra Inc Acc	284.19	300.72	-3.87	4.25
FE Emg Econ	50.22	53.13	-2.10	2.28
Fixed Int Inc #	28.74	30.17†	-0.42	8.24
Former Mlr Inc	49.26	51.98†	-2.31	
Fund Of Inv Inc #	201.34	213.05	-2.30	7.68
Fund Of Inv Acc	439.83	465.42	-4.79	7.68
Gilt Inc Inc #	51.52	53.70†	-0.90	6.42
Global Bond Inc	41.80	43.61	+0.40	4.54
Global Inc Inc	33.40	35.17†	+0.28	3.43
Global Inc Acc	52.25	55.01	+0.43	3.43
High Inc Inc	147.17	155.74	-2.45	4.22
High Inc Acc	198.49	210.05	-3.30	4.22
Japan Inc	132.68	139.64†	+4.66	
Latin Amer Inc	34.15	36.13†	-3.31	1.83
Master Inc Inc	59.32	62.76	-2.64	3.19
Master Grth Inc	54.63	57.81	-3.20	1.20
North Amer Inc	234.10	245.30	-18.83	
North Amer Acc	234.28	245.59	-18.86	
Prop Share Inc	82.48	87.27	-1.08	1.08
Special Sit Inc	155.94	165.02	-7.89	1.59
Special Sit Acc	177.66	188.00	-9.00	1.59
Tech Inc	730.35	769.72	-62.19	
Tech Acc	730.35	769.72	-62.19	
UK Blue Chip Inc	112.49	118.72†	-2.17	2.46
UK Blue Chip Acc	137.56	145.17	-2.65	2.46
UK Emrg Co Inc	74.72	80.78	-4.27	1.48
UK Grth Inc	68.42	73.46	-1.97	1.49
World Port Inc #	85.84	90.52	-2.03	1.04
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2309.00	2423.00	-163.00	
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5888				
Resid Property #	106.40	115.30	-0.20	5.50
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	103.39	109.70†	-0.44	1.94
Income Builder Inc	98.34	104.62	-1.47	3.11
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Cntrct Out Pens	141.80	147.30	-8.50	
Foundn Pens Pens	81.11	84.27		...
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
American Sm Cos	387.60	417.80†	-23.20	
Bond	128.20	134.70	-0.30	6.15
Brit Smll Cos	101.30	107.69	-2.50	1.50
Europe	402.40	427.10	-14.80	
Euro Smlr Cos	127.10	135.20	-2.10	0.23
High Income #	70.25	74.68†	-1.35	5.15
Income	409.50	435.60†	-16.30	3.73
Japan	253.80	268.30	+7.70	
Latin American	61.99	65.95	-5.72	
Pacific	51.03	54.29	-1.95	1.29
UK Smlr Cos	58.33	62.05	-1.77	1.01
Japanese Sm Cos	421.20	432.50	+8.80	
Mngd Fd	245.00	259.90	-7.90	2.64
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Oseas	410.00	433.60	-24.90	0.80
Capital Grwth	162.50	171.90	-9.60	2.31
Wwide Opps	228.50	241.70	-15.10	0.89
BARCLAYS FUNDS LTD				
Customer Help Desk 0181 522 4000				
Income Funds				
Cash	101.10	101.10	+0.20	7.02
Cash Acc	136.50	136.50	+0.20	7.02
Income #	685.70	732.50†	-2.70	4.02
Income Builder #	78.86	83.98†	-0.75	4.58
Balanced Funds				
Exempt	106.90	113.69	-0.60	1.27
500	498.70	536.30†	-5.40	1.92
General	403.00	432.20	-5.30	1.33
Property	277.70	298.00	..	6.10
Trustee	280.00	300.20	-3.90	1.54
Growth Funds - UK				
Capital	179.80	192.70	-2.30	1.50
FTSE 100	132.30	140.40	-1.40	1.64
Smaller Cos	54.27	57.89†	-1.04	2.44
Smaller Cos Acc	66.48	70.91	-1.29	2.44
Growth Funds - Overseas				
America	234.20	247.40	-17.70	
American Growth	156.60	165.90	-12.70	
Japan	78.79	83.09	+4.49	
Japan Acc	79.70	84.05	+4.54	
Japan Spec Sits	36.14	38.21	+2.02	
Worldwide	208.90	221.90	-1.50	0.68
Barclays Investment Portfolios				
Managed Income	50.99	52.71†	-0.09	6.24
Mgd Grth & Inc #	46.61	49.52†	-0.48	5
Managed Growth	45.99	49.08†	-0.34	0.60
Barclays Global Investors Funds				
Brokerline 0800 783 4567				
Income Funds				
Distribution #	124.42	125.00†	-1.10	5.31
Equity Income #	165.20	176.20	-2.00	4.11
Gilt & Fx Int	65.09	67.42†	-0.19	6.66
Int Fxd Int	103.80	107.30†	+0.70	4.50
Int Fxd Int Acc	137.00	141.70	+0.90	4.50
Growth Funds - UK				
UK Growth	519.28	552.30†	-17.90	1.31
UK Growth Acc	525.50	559.00†	-5.20	1.31
Growth & Inc	530.20	564.00	-6.00	1.38
Growth & Inc Acc	1153	1227.	-13.00	1.38
Growth Funds - Overseas				
Euro Growth	264.10	279.40†	+7.90	0.53
Euro Growth Acc	290.89	307.70	+8.70	0.53
Far Eastern Grwth	74.10	79.90	-2.32	1.66
Far East Grth Acc	129.90	136.90	-4.00	1.66
Customer Service Centre 0800 626262				
b2 Sm Mkt Gth	88.87	88.65†	-1.26	
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	194.10	204.80	-16.60	
Amer Smlr Cos	132.40	149.50	-10.70	
Eastern	108.30	117.60	-1.30	0.30
Equity Income #	117.80	124.88†	-2.80	3.60
European Growth	596.90	633.30	-2.00	0.40
Europe Select	450.50	483.90	8.50	0.50
German Growth	157.40	166.70	-0.60	0.50
Global Bond	77.15	81.14†	-0.16	5.10
Global Growth	190.20	201.90	-7.38	0.10
Japan Growth	103.30	109.20	+2.20	
Japan Smllr Cos	76.82	81.16	+1.81	
Korea Trust	21.51	23.36	+0.08	
Portfolio	171.40	182.40†	-6.10	1.80
-do- Accum	336.10	356.70	-12.00	1.80
UK Growth	132.60	141.20	-3.60	1.20
UK Smaller Cos	122.60	130.90	-6.10	0.70
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Intl Gth Port Inc	95.80	101.90†	-3.20	
Special Oppor Inc	33.67	35.82†	-0.17	
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6020				
Balanced Growth	181.83	189.41	-2.79	0.45
-do- Accum	215.78	224.77	-3.32	0.45
Smaller Cos	170.59	177.70	-3.42	0.26
-do- Accum	193.78	201.85	-3.89	0.26
Higher Yield #	71.30	74.27	-0.91	3.29
-do- Accum #	119.86	124.04	-1.52	3.29
American Gth Inc	143.27	149.24†	-9.92	
European Growth	233.42	243.15†	+6.92	
-do- Accum	238.42	248.35	+7.07	
Mngd Ptflio Inc	59.57	62.06	-0.56	1.35
-do- Accum	62.73	65.34	-0.59	1.35
Intl Spec Opps	197.75	205.99	-2.63	
Pacific Gth	78.25	79.43	-1.37	1.48
UK General #	121.75	126.82	-1.88	2.35
-do- Accum #	137.23	142.95	-2.12	2.35
Japan	34.90	36.36†	+3.19	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	113.92	118.05†	-0.35	6.88
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Shtrd Dated Gilt	65.59	66.83	-0.10	5.77
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Environ	222.80	234.50	-1.60	1.54
UK Growth	265.20	279.20†	-3.30	1.76
UK Income	195.90	206.20	-0.40	3.52
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 682 180				
Can Gen Dist	268.90	284.80†	-6.30	1.19
-do- Income Dist	158.90	168.40	-2.78	2.93
-do- Accum	542.00	574.50	-9.20	2.93
Gilt & Fxd Int	45.77	48.09†	-0.16	4.52
Growth Units	325.80	349.30†	-8.50	1.66
Bond	195.50	205.60†	+0.10	5.80
Intl Growth	225.30	240.00	-5.20	0.13
North American	318.30	337.80†	-26.10	
Far East	117.60	125.60	-0.10	1.69
UK Smaller Cos	243.40	260.30	-8.50	1.11
European	128.80	137.40	+0.10	0.47
Japanese Growth	25.93	27.48	+0.07	
High Income	276.30	295.30	-4.20	2.90
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	284.20	300.60	-21.00	
European Inc	140.60	149.30†	+0.40	
Smaller Cos (4-1)	102.00	108.60†	-2.68	2.12
Growth	668.80	709.40†	-9.70	1.91
Income & Growth #	546.10	581.00†	-11.40	4.77
-do- Accum #	888.30	945.00	-18.50	4.77
Japan & Gen	42.22	44.60	+0.90	
Hallmark Grwth	1489.00	1552.00	-39.00	1.42
-do- Accum	1889.00	1967.00	-49.00	1.42
Special Sits	153.10	162.90	-3.20	1.80
High Yield	1790.00	1855.00	-38.00	4.03
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0709				
Cazenove Portfolio	113.64	120.92	-2.62	2.40
American Portfolio	165.45	175.24	-6.42	0.47
European Portfolio	193.26	205.60	-2.67	0.32
High Income	57.42	60.49†	-0.34	6.18
Japanese Portfolio	40.72	43.15†	+1.72	
Pacific Portfolio	75.78	81.49	-1.23	1.61
UK Equity	112.90	120.57	-2.52	2.98
UK Equity & Bd	69.90	74.09	-0.61	5.15
UK Smlr Cos	58.13	61.62†	-1.50	2.17
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	948.54	962.88	-59.41	3.60
Inv Fd Acc	1004.84	1020.02	-53.06	...
Fxd Int Sec Inc	170.56	171.24	-1.64	7.47
Fxd Int Sec Acc	192.93	193.71	+1.77	
CIM UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 203 5900				
Equity Dist	1218.00	1242.00†	-62.00	2.97
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	938.93	942.07	-45.00	3.69
Investment Acc	4583.51	4652.78	-222.06	
Fixed Int Inc	140.22	140.78	+1.09	7.81
Fixed Int Acc	295.61	296.79	+2.29	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
CF Intl Acc	108.21	113.84	+0.10	5.43
City Fin Fd	27.62	30.04	-5.42	
Acorn Ethical Tst	176.82	188.11	-7.28	0.65
City Fin Assets	81.04	85.10	-7.10	3.33
City Fin Intl	76.37	81.14	-8.95	
Fraas Hse Cap	345.72	357.79†	-27.22	2.40
Beckley Wrld Grth	139.74	148.12		
Utilities Fd	93.70	95.65	+1.25	2.72
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	31.21	33.11	-1.82	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Grth	98.51	104.80	-8.82	
Dragon Growth	33.70	35.94	-1.10	2.40
Equity High Inc #	116.42	123.19†	-3.74	4.45
-do- Accum #	180.37	190.86	-3.24	4.45
Extra Income Inc	30.02	31.64	-0.04	5.40
Extra Income Acc	36.18	38.14	-0.05	5.40
European Grth	96.64	102.26	-0.41	0.09
Evergreen	32.48	34.73	-0.39	0.12
General Equity	133.98	141.40	-1.44	2.51
Japan Growth	29.50	31.38	+0.76	
Pedigree Grth	83.55	88.41	-2.88	1.90
Ped Sm Cos Inc	38.64	40.86	-1.51	1.98
-do- Accum	41.77	44.20	-1.63	1.98
Retirement Inc #	33.11	35.22	-0.44	5.22
Special Sits	56.94	61.23	-0.66	2.66
UK & Overseas	68.87	72.87	-1.39	0.69
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 090				
Balanced	80.63	83.98†	-1.45	3.32
Capital	99.57	103.82†	-1.41	1.67
High Income	58.35	60.78†	-0.15	6.27
Top 50	75.56	78.70†	-1.50	1.80
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	223.38	232.71	-5.28	4.45
Long Gilt	56.15	58.45	-0.15	4.57
Monthly Inc Plus	64.11	66.79	-0.57	6.71
-do- Accum	80.92	84.30	-0.33	6.71
Preference Share	65.60	68.34	-0.32	5.70
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	170.54	177.66	-4.82	5.42
Managed Fund	85.60	89.18	-0.75	2.77
Uk Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	44.27	46.12	-1.06	1.37
-do- Accum	53.39	55.62	-1.27	1.37
UK & General	119.65	124.65	-3.63	2.24
-do- Accum	161.32	168.06	-4.90	2.24
UK Growth	241.42	251.51	-3.59	1.40
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	337.26	351.35	+2.67	
Far Eastern Gth	71.71	74.71	+1.04	0.45
Global Bond	73.53	76.60	+0.94	5.01
Japan Growth	70.74	73.70	+3.68	
North Amer Gth	309.79	322.73	-22.57	
Oriental Growth	39.73	41.38	-0.48	1.57
Worldwide Growth	82.85	86.31	-1.52	
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.60	93.60	+0.09	6.71
Homemaker Fund	98.62	104.93	-1.76	2.19
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Consistent UT	42.76	45.70†	-1.39	2.89
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	195.00	207.40	-4.30	2.00
UK Eqty Inc	84.73	90.14†	-2.24	3.68
European Growth	110.00	116.97	+0.60	0.10
UK Spec Sits	213.88	227.40	+1.30	1.20
For Co-op Pension see CIM Unit Trust				
CREDIT SUISSE ASSET MGMT FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
European Inc	97.53	103.40†	+1.80	
Fellowship Tst	118.00	125.50	-1.80	1.07
Income #	336.30	357.70	-6.00	3.85
-do- Accum #	941.90	1002.00	-17.00	3.85
Smaller Cos	227.30	241.60	-7.70	0.49
-do- Accum	284.90	303.00	-9.70	0.49
Gilt Portfolio	117.09	124.40†	-2.80	1.22
Mthly Inc Port #	99.46	105.80	-1.80	3.69
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1034				
Global Sm Cos	207.32	207.45	+1.40	4.51
UK Small Cos	1493.20	1547.20	-23.50	5.71
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	280.90	269.00	+1.80	2.84
DRESDNER RCM FUNDS (UK) LTD				
Dealers: 0171 475 7354 Admin/Val 0870 601 6117				
Amer Smllr Cos	188.86	201.02	-16.36	
Bond Income	112.61	116.69†	-1.82	6.35
European	274.81	292.35	+0.84	
European Pdv	125.64	133.66	+0.81	0.67
European Special	204.39	217.43	+1.55	
Gilt Yield	134.70	142.11	-2.50	5.96
Global Eqty Inc	134.28	142.69†	-1.51	1.27
High Yield #	195.35	207.72	-2.89	4.57
Japan	237.85	253.13	+3.32	
Japanese Special	118.86	126.44	-0.14	
Money Market	106.27	106.27	+0.10	6.50
North American	150.76	160.37	-13.68	
Smaller Cos	139.82	148.74†	-6.29	1.11
Tomorrows Co Er	1185.00	1202.00	-23.00	0.13
UK Index Inc	420.42	422.53	-7.17	2.91
Europe Bd	39.85	41.46	+0.81	6.61
Exempt	854.65	891.55†	-23.85	2.00
Global Emr Mkts	43.66	45.92	-1.80	0.81
Little Dragons	45.87	48.03	-1.53	
Oriental Income #	27.72	29.02	+0.40	4.52
Preference	164.18	171.91	-0.51	6.69
Tiger	129.00	135.07	-1.40	
UK Growth	815.43	853.85	-30.90	1.51
UK Mid-Cap	420.23	449.03	-21.43	1.39
UK Smllr Cos	122.30	127.95	-2.12	0.01
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 526				
European	86.04	91.20	-0.28	
Financial	69.76	74.12	-4.14	1.35
UK Growth #	366.70	389.60†	-9.70	1.93
UK Income	226.60	240.80	-6.10	3.53
Latin American	17.15	18.22†	-1.06	
Mgd Grth Port	99.04	103.50	-5.80	0.68
Pacific	43.60	46.33	-0.57	
Pcfl High Inc	27.57	29.27	-0.24	6.73
Tokyo	123.80	130.80†	+1.50	
UK Smaller Cos	254.90	270.80	-7.50	1.29
Japan Sm Cos	208.60	220.50	+1.60	
Nth Amer	568.60	602.30	-63.40	
For Ely Place see Sarasin				
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	243.50	258.00	-14.10	0.92
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	134.97	142.07	+0.37	1.34
Ethical Tst	51.79	54.52	-0.77	1.10
Far Eastern	169.65	178.58	+2.41	2.60
High Income	173.50	182.63	-2.79	4.04
UK Index Trckng	66.12	69.60†	-1.63	2.44
Intl Growth	123.03	129.51	-2.46	1.68
North American	177.72	187.07	-10.88	1.60
Pelican	179.15	188.58	-4.25	2.57
Smaller Cos	68.65	72.26	-2.10	2.31
Special Sits	89.70	94.42	-1.68	2.80
Tst of Inv Tsts	227.54	239.52†	-7.34	1.82
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	149.60	157.57	-2.16	
Fd of Inv Tsts	57.33	60.83	-0.29	
High Income #	48.89	51.84	-0.31	8.92
War & Gt Opps	53.94	57.23†	+0.32	
Zero Preference	51.11	54.23	-0.34	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 724 570				
Family Asset Tst	123.80	131.60	-1.80	2.01
Charities Eth	342.00	363.80	-6.40	2.53
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	..	7.10
Bond Funds:				
Intl Bond ‡	26.40		+0.24	4.79
Income Funds				
High Income ‡	32.49		-1.97	4.83
Income Plus #	172.90		-16.00	4.42
Moneybuilder Grth #	40.11		-1.47	3.34
Equity Funds				
ASEAN ‡	14.71		-1.70	
American ‡	459.20		-85.40	
Amer Spec Sits ‡	209.19		-26.80	
European ‡	320.10		-73.00	0.33
European Opps ‡	127.70		-7.60	0.44
Global Priv ‡	38.13		-2.74	0.22
UK Growth ‡	154.70		-13.10	1.26
Growth & Inc #	226.20		-22.50	3.48
Intl PEP ‡	60.710		-8.20	1.14
Japan Spec Sits ‡	53.67		-1.70	
Japan ‡	130.80		-4.20	
Managed Intl ‡	432.30		-53.00	0.69
Moneybuilder Plus	75.59	75.59	-2.63	8.05
Recovery ‡	61.950		-4.19	2.97
South E Asia ‡	104.70		-11.10	2.08
Special Sits ‡	889.60		-78.30	1.27
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	127.41	127.41	+0.13	7.10
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	156.60	158.30†	-3.80	2.10
Flexbury Prl Inc #	114.70	115.60†	-1.20	5.54
Cap Photo	182.20	183.50	-7.20	0.04
General Opps	172.60	174.10	-8.80	3.44
Growth Inc	47.27	47.86	-1.28	0.86
Private Portfolio	587.90	592.80†	-31.00	0.96
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 690 366 Admin/Val 01277 690 350				
Euro Smllr Cos	223.90	238.20†	-3.30	
High Income	20.86	22.20†	-1.00	10.14
Uk Smllr Cos	30.93	33.08	-0.78	2.08
US Smaller Cos	478.00	509.50	-31.20	
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	116.60	123.30	-8.10	
-do- Accum	116.60	123.30	-8.10	
Amer Smllr Cos	606.20	648.30†	-47.30	
-do- Accum	619.30	660.30†	-48.30	
Capital Tst	388.00	412.80	-7.00	1.26
-do- Accum	579.50	616.50	-10.40	1.26
Cont'l Smllr Cos	74.71	80.35	-1.67	
-do- Accum	80.18	86.23	-1.79	
Convertible	152.30	162.00	-1.50	5.83
-do- Accum	361.10	384.10	-3.80	5.83
Emerging Markets	32.80	35.04	+0.01	0.07
-do- Accum	33.06	35.34	+0.01	0.07
European	221.20	234.40	-0.40	
-do- Accum	235.20	249.20	-0.40	
Extra Income	452.70	481.60†	-8.90	3.99
-do- Accum	768.80	817.90†	-15.10	3.99
Financial	248.00	263.90	-9.20	0.38
-do- Accum	266.50	283.70	-9.80	0.38
Gilt Trust	66.18	68.23	-0.16	5.50
-do- Accum	112.00	115.40	-0.30	5.50
Health Fund Inc	203.30	217.40	-10.40	
-do- Accum	203.30	217.40	-10.40	
Income & Growth	258.10	275.60	-6.20	3.05
-do- Accum	436.80	464.70	-10.40	3.05
Intl Growth	463.70	493.70	-13.80	
-do- Accum	514.90	548.20	-15.40	
Japan & Gen	99.45	105.20	+1.60	
-do- Accum	100.40	106.20	+1.60	
Monthly Inc #	226.40	243.00†	-7.00	3.81
-do- Accum #	243.40	259.90†	-7.40	3.81
Managed Port Inc	124.60	131.20	-4.50	1.52
-do- Accum	138.70	146.00	-5.20	1.52
Quarterly Income #	63.13	67.52†	-1.15	4.59
-do- Accum #	79.94	84.55†	-1.42	4.59
UK Growth	77.07	81.93†	-3.06	1.28
UK Smllr	86.38	91.89†	-3.44	1.20
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 0870 600 6300 Enq 0870 600 6300				
FP American	82.60	87.72	-6.46	
FP Am Smllr Cos	181.00	193.00	-20.40	
FP Asian Growth	110.80	118.10	-6.60	
FP Australian	363.80	388.00†	+18.10	
FP Equity Dist	566.60	604.30	-8.60	1.74
-do- Accum	1303.00	1389.00	-20.00	1.74
FP Euro Gth	448.80	478.70	+14.00	
-do- Accum	491.80	524.50	+15.40	
FP Intl Bond	59.15	62.59†	+0.61	3.89
FP Intl Gth Dist	44.83	47.81	-0.57	0.04
-do- Accum	66.10	70.52	-0.82	0.04
FP Pac Basin Acc	135.70	144.70	+0.90	0.21
FP Income #	72.14	76.94	-0.86	4.53
-do- Accum #	273.00	291.20	-3.30	4.53
FP Jap Smllr Cos	140.80	150.10	+2.40	
FP Monthly Dist #	87.57	93.40†	-1.68	4.65
FP Stlg Deposit	101.10	101.10	+0.10	6.61
FP Tokyo	56.79	60.57	+2.07	
FP UK Focus	53.08	56.61	-0.99	1.32
FP UK Growth	249.00	265.60	-5.20	1.29
-do- Accum	519.60	554.20	-10.90	1.29
Stewardship Dist	478.80	508.50	-2.70	1.78
-do- Accum	614.60	655.50	-3.40	1.78
Stwdshp Inc Dist #	79.30	83.52†	+0.24	4.38
-do- Accum #	117.10	124.90	+0.30	4.38
Stewdshp Intern	165.70	176.70	-3.00	
-do- Accum	178.60	190.50	-3.30	
FP Exempt Trust				
Inst Ethical In #	124.90	125.50	-0.80	2.60
Inst Ethical Ac #	129.90	130.50	-0.80	2.60
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Grth Acc	148.60	158.20	-9.10	0.59
Open Cap Gth Acc	143.20	152.30	-8.30	
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	133.30	141.80†	-4.90	3.30
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	147.50	156.90	-5.40	3.30
Opn Cp Gth Ic Inc #	133.90	142.40	-5.90	3.34
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	151.10	160.70†	-6.70	3.34
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 106/7				
GANDA	360.90	379.80	-4.70	1.23
Cash	49.51	50.25†	+0.04	6.29
Income Portfolio	86.32	90.86†	-0.25	2.55
GA Equity Gth	261.20	277.90	-3.38	0.61
GA European Gth	193.40	205.70	+5.10	
GA Japan Gth	64.94	68.56	+4.12	
GA Nth Amer Gth	311.80	329.20	-25.20	
GA Intl Gth	138.90	147.80	-1.80	0.14
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
American Smlr Cos	207.00	221.40	-20.70	0.15
European Gth	939.00	1000.00	+14.10	0.17
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	65.14	68.97	+0.67	2.69
-do- Accum	76.59	81.09	+0.79	2.69
High Yield #	56.00	59.15†	-0.49	6.61
-do- Accum #	69.47	73.38	-0.60	6.61
Income Inc	216.90	232.00†	-7.30	3.31
-do- Accum	264.10	282.50	-8.80	3.31
Intl Growth	393.20	416.80	-0.20	1.99
Intl Income	131.30	139.70	-0.30	2.67
Japan Growth	370.40	392.10	+4.60	0.03
Orient Acc	92.46	98.27	-2.53	
UK Blue Chip Inc	234.10	250.40†	-5.80	0.73
UK Blue Chip Acc	426.80	456.50	-10.80	0.73
Uk Sm Cos Dev Acc	86.36	92.37	-2.18	1.26
US Growth	233.70	247.30	-22.90	
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2000 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	69.50	74.11†	-0.65	1.62
Practical Inv Inc #	139.20	148.68	-2.79	3.23
-do- Accum #	347.59	371.75	-6.99	3.23
UK Index	219.86	229.96†	-8.08	2.58
UK Smaller Cos	233.48	249.71	-8.66	1.18
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	26.43	27.39†	-0.29	7.08
High Income	43.66	46.53†	-1.22	4.08
UK Growth & Inc	193.82	206.59†	-5.40	3.16
Global Bond	28.30	29.34	+0.29	5.01
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	27.12	29.01	-0.94	
Global Managed	158.23	167.73	-3.82	0.86
Gold & Intl Res	51.71	55.31	+3.89	
Global Utilities	211.69	225.42	-5.06	1.32
Overseas Funds				
American	237.50	251.46	-18.74	
European	198.19	210.58	-0.29	0.61
Euro Sel Opps	335.08	358.39†	-1.56	
Amer Emerging	154.78	165.47	-14.07	
Hong Kong	86.49	92.65	-2.12	3.96
Japan	120.79	127.82	+5.76	
Pacific Growth	110.37	117.85	-2.68	1.80
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Cash Trust	160.68	160.68	+0.17	7.11
Managed Equity	288.66	288.66	-7.90	1.49
Long Term Bal	313.67	313.67	-5.67	2.55
Med Term Bal	269.97	269.97	-4.08	2.93
UK Equity	373.42	373.42	-12.32	1.13
UK Emerging Cos	169.43	169.43	-3.87	2.45
American	419.10	419.10†	-12.17	0.23
Japan	77.25	77.25†	+3.41	
European	518.99	518.99†	-0.33	0.81
Index Linked Gilt	234.07	234.07†	-0.24	2.26
Fixed Interest	222.06	222.06†	-0.59	5.91
Amer Emergs	352.90	352.90†	-28.06	
Pacific	97.42	97.42	+0.38	2.12
Emerging Mkts	78.55	78.55†	-1.98	1.55
Index Stsd Japan	79.71	79.71†	+4.11	0.51
-do- Pacific Rim	84.55	84.55†	+0.93	4.70
-do- Cont Europe	280.32	280.32†	+2.17	1.35
Index Stsd USA	261.72	261.72†	-19.23	1.13
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	136.58	145.29	-3.96	...
Med Term Bal	129.33	137.58	-2.07	
Long Term Bal	141.76	150.80	-2.71	
UK Equity	174.76	185.91	-6.17	
UK Emerging Cos	80.23	85.35	-1.94	
American	194.21	206.61	-16.94	
Japan	36.99	39.34	+1.75	
European	216.79	230.63	-0.19	
Fixed Interest	116.32	123.74	-0.31	
Index Linked Gilt	104.83	111.52	-0.10	
Deposit	98.13	104.39	+0.13	
Broker Unit Trusts				
BWH Intl	162.04	170.57	-4.60	0.50
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT				
GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Intl Grth Inc ‡	725.60		-1.43	0.52
-do- Accum ‡	823.63		-1.62	0.52
European Gth Inc ‡	226.92		-10.06	0.76
Amalgam Inc	189.56	190.35	-6.89	
N Amer Grth Inc ‡	535.51		-35.52	
Far East Gth Inc ‡	174.31		-14.65	0.47
-do- Accum ‡	181.86		-15.28	0.47
UK Dvld Inc ‡	223.73		-8.43	1.66
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD				
0171 635 5806				
European	833.70	880.60	+24.70	
Gilt & Fixed	149.50	158.50†	-1.10	4.65
Growth Equity	485.10	518.20	-5.40	1.32
Income Trust	189.50	202.46	+0.20	3.46
International	226.50	241.90	-3.30	
Japan Trust	75.76	80.96	+3.53	
Nth American	434.80	462.80	-40.30	
Pacific	233.90	249.80	-0.60	1.44
Guardhill	701.50	749.40†	-9.40	1.29
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD				
0171 522 2129				
European Bond	102.75	106.67†	+0.44	3.94
Global High Inc	90.56	93.98	+1.51	4.74
Stlg Bond Pflo	120.28	124.84	-0.47	5.00
Cont Mgd Pflo	132.50	140.88	-1.54	4.43
European Pflo	182.05	193.56	+0.59	
World Mkts Pflo	86.73	92.13	-2.10	
UK Eq Inc Pflo	171.57	182.42†	-2.84	2.95
Global	267.98	284.93	-4.42	2.95
UK Opps	464.70	494.10	+0.60	2.53
-do- Accum	573.50	609.78	+0.90	2.53
St Vinc High Inc	146.83	149.83†	-4.76	5.32
UK Emerg Cos	269.30	286.30	-2.70	3.88
Inst UK Sm Co	343.20	349.30	-4.10	4.65
Glob Fxy Tst	140.09	145.95	+1.20	1.47
-do- Accum	146.86	155.93	+1.24	1.47
Inc Share Tst	115.54	122.85†	..	7.26
HK & China Tst	49.67	52.81	-1.50	1.97
Blue Chip Pflo	300.82	319.85†	-7.68	1.19
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD				
Dealing: 01904 611118				
Balanced Inc	66.53	70.55†	-1.72	2.46
Balanced Acc	74.39	78.85	-1.92	2.46
Growth	39.88	42.29†	-1.43	1.53
Growth Acc	42.46	45.03	-1.52	1.53
Income	36.44	38.64†	-1.56	3.61
Income Acc	41.64	44.15	-1.36	3.61
Accumulation Tst	34.17	37.02	-1.19	2.80
HARGREAVES LANSDOWN FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 690 230 Dealing: 01277 690 412				
UK Port Acc	52.22	55.41	-0.30	2.74
HENDERSON INVESTORS				
Enquiries: 0645 494949 Dealing: 0645 464646				
UK Funds				
UK Enterprise	408.56	435.01†	-22.95	0.14
Best of British	85.18	90.54	+0.33	2.05
UK Smaller Cos	176.78	189.95†	-10.46	0.74
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	370.86	394.96	-1.48	2.72
-do- Accum #	1108.17	1180.19	-4.43	2.72
High Income	410.06	438.25†	-6.71	3.73
Extra Income #	354.01	376.48†	-9.44	5.05
Pref & Bond	60.95	63.96†	-0.20	6.47
International				
Ethical	159.90	161.38†	-3.18	2.19
International	348.68	368.44	-8.96	0.68
Global Bond	53.37	56.04†	-0.17	5.34
Intl Port Tst	110.87	118.57	-4.87	0.21
Global Tech	265.35	282.05	-24.53	
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	110.53	118.19	-2.61	1.58
European	934.52	987.87	-1.58	0.09
European Income #	133.87	141.40†	+3.17	2.36
Euro Smlr Cos	259.65	278.49	-3.53	0.08
European Value	115.83	123.52		
Japan Trust	103.84	109.46†	+4.60	
Japan Smlr Cos	98.15	101.46	-3.22	
Pacific Smlr Cos	127.40	135.73	+2.30	
North American	413.18	437.34	-25.15	
American Smllr	200.87	213.53	-17.11	
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0800 538053				
British	159.20	166.71	-4.12	1.97
Capital	235.21	246.90†	-7.16	1.17
Dollar	678.25	710.20	-56.91	
Enterprise Gth	507.30	531.20	-25.78	0.81
European	405.89	425.01	+0.31	
Far East	127.68	133.70	-1.21	1.55
Financial	1386.93	1452.28	-71.84	1.67
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	29.73	30.93†	-0.12	5.32
High Yield	137.90	144.40	-3.64	4.20
Income & Growth	205.97	215.67	-6.88	3.71
International	343.16	358.33†	-11.50	0.41
Japanese General	128.79	134.88	-0.43	
Japan Tech	58.07	60.80	-0.16	
Ntl Resources	45.85	48.01	+0.78	1.78
Portfolio	98.63	103.28	-2.06	2.22
Special Sits	245.82	257.41†	-12.82	1.48
UK Emerging Cos	116.93	122.44	-7.52	1.55
US Smaller Cos	149.48	158.52	-17.88	
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers 0800 181 898 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	782.30	834.99†	-15.30	4.38
Uk Growth	873.50	931.90	-20.80	1.34
High Income #	146.50	156.30†	-1.10	5.52
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	793.50	838.70	-63.40	
European Gwth	232.30	247.70	+0.10	
Japan Gwth	183.90	195.40	+4.70	
Japan Smlr Cos	16.72	17.84		
Asian	23.54	25.12	-0.75	0.80
Sing & Malay Gwth	18.08	19.30	-1.27	
Hong Kong Gwth	100.10	106.80	-2.30	2.76
Global Bond	21.25	22.38	+0.05	4.55
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	208.60	209.60	-3.80	2.72
Tries Index	122.20	129.20†	-1.90	2.75
THE FOOTSIE FUND	85.99	86.47	-1.42	1.92
Index Funds-International				
American Index	385.40	397.40	-27.60	0.44
Eurotrack 100	289.00	290.50	+4.20	0.81
Japan Index	42.42	42.63	+2.21	0.44
Tiger Index	54.35	56.61	-3.49	2.90
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	45.30	47.31†	+0.62	1.69
General Funds				
Managed Dist	99.19	105.60	-2.10	1.17
Managed	103.70	108.30	-2.30	1.17
Repert Chld Fnd	136.80	142.90	-3.50	1.22
UK Growth	81.50	85.12	-1.69	1.21
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc #	107.50	112.30†	-1.30	4.48
Gilt & Fixed Int #	30.19	31.19	-0.08	7.02
UK Inc & Gwth	39.11	61.73	-1.08	2.33
UK Income #	461.50	482.10	-6.70	3.43
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	75.95	78.58†	-6.72	...
Amer Smllr Cos	152.00	158.70	-19.80	
-do- Accum	153.60	160.40	-10.90	
Europe Gth	401.70	419.50†	-0.50	
-do- Accum	416.00	434.50†	-0.50	
Euro Smaller Cos	69.95	72.98	-0.79	
French Growth	140.80	146.70	+1.30	0.43
-do- Accum	152.50	158.30	+1.50	0.43
H Kong & China	62.37	64.99	+1.19	2.72
Intl Growth	74.94	78.00	-1.68	
-do- Accum	76.45	79.56	-1.79	
Japan Gth	17.19	17.92	+0.61	
-do- Accum	17.19	17.92	+0.61	
Japan Smaller Cos	18.79	19.61†	+0.43	
Glob Emg Mkts	48.84	51.01	-1.00	0.07
-do- Accum	49.42	51.61	-1.03	0.07
SE Asia	132.40	138.10	-1.40	2.11
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond #	51.32	52.92†	+0.27	5.34
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 0870 606 6457 Dealing 0870 606 6407				
Uk Income #	137.60	146.60	-1.90	2.91
UK Growth	145.50	155.20	-1.90	0.89
European Gwth	131.70	139.60	+4.40	0.18
Slater Growth	219.60	236.90	-2.80	1.80
New Japan	56.56	60.08	+2.37	
Global Growth	101.40	107.50	-4.20	
Monthly Inc #	97.79	102.51†	-0.55	7.60
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	116.50	123.80	-10.00	
Income #	269.41	286.60	-3.41	4.01
UK Growth	104.83	111.51	-1.66	1.58
Intl Growth	97.04	102.89	-3.12	
Ecology	112.65	119.83	-3.81	0.68
European	278.04	293.27	-2.71	0.23
Far Eastern	197.80	210.30	+5.70	
UK Special Sits	64.06	68.32	-3.29	0.32
Fd of Inv Tsts	55.08	58.74	-1.83	
High Income #	61.46	65.54	-1.19	4.88
Financial Opps	62.97	67.15	-1.86	0.60
Growth & Income #	49.95	53.27	-1.75	2.70
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 556 8800				
Bridge Income #	399.74	425.26	-1.28	4.18
Esk Growth	118.38	123.70	-18.63	0.56
Inc & Growth	87.99	93.61	-2.05	3.32
Smaller Cos	107.97	114.86	-3.11	1.47
Ever Spec Sit Inc	60.49	64.28	-0.50	1.98
Ever Spec Sit Acc	64.33	68.44	-0.53	1.98
Premier Growth	48.59	51.69	-1.53	2.50
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01277 690 432				
UK Cap	523.30	555.30†	-7.80	1.53
UK Inc/Gth #	552.20	583.90†	-16.10	3.69
UK Income #	389.10	411.40†	-6.20	4.79
UK Income Acc #	408.60	433.50†	-6.70	4.79
UK Sm Cos	307.40	328.80†	-13.30	2.16
Euro Gwth	225.40	238.30	-0.30	0.29
N Amer Gwth	139.90	148.00	-18.00	
Pacific Growth	4.09	4.34	-0.81	0.40
Emrg Mkts Gwth	41.97	44.27	-2.73	
Japan Growth	39.84	42.06	+1.38	
Dealing: 01277 842626				
Gwth Port Inc	78.26	82.76	-4.03	0.56
Gwth Port Acc	79.94	84.54	-4.12	0.55
Inc Port Inc	74.58	78.87†	-3.08	3.46
Inc Port Acc	87.53	92.56†	-3.62	3.27
Wwde Port	59.15	62.55	-4.02	
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01222 448412 Dealing: 01222 683512				
Equity Dist @	718.80	718.80†	-24.00	1.93
-do- Accum @	1546.00	1546.00†	-39.00	1.93
Equity Income @	115.70	115.70†	-1.50	4.29
UK Tactical Allocn @	81.90	81.90	-1.20	6.45
European @	204.80	204.80†	+2.70	
Far Eastern @	122.90	122.90	-2.39	1.16
Fixed Interest @	61.82	61.82	-0.21	6.70
Gilt @	104.10	104.10	-0.40	5.16
Global Growth @	82.58	82.58	-2.05	
Intl Bond @	49.10	49.18†	+0.06	5.01
Japanese @	48.18	48.18	+0.48	1.35
North American @	286.60	286.60†	-20.50	
Pacific Growth @	52.53	52.53	-0.74	2.00
Pacific Index @	21.84	21.84	+0.24	4.40
UK Index @	96.37	96.37	-1.76	2.64
UK Recovery @	131.90	131.90	-5.70	1.36
UK Smaller Cos @	171.40	171.40	-6.50	1.03
US Index @	113.80	113.80	-8.60	0.57
European Index @	132.80	132.80†	+1.68	0.82
Japan Index @	21.70	21.70	+1.10	
Worldwide @	110.00	110.00	-1.90	1.14
LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS				
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 623				
Growth	69.12	73.92	-1.33	2.33
Income	80.13	85.69	-1.56	3.99
Far East	21.81	23.32	+0.38	1.11
North American	156.40	166.40	-10.90	
Global	91.94	98.39	-0.96	0.39
European	149.70	159.60	+3.30	0.29
Japan	55.29	58.93†	+2.53	
Intl Currency Bd	57.39	60.62	+0.49	4.53
SE Asia	36.19	38.70	-0.16	1.90
UK Cap Growth	124.50	133.10	-1.70	1.48
Recovery Trust	89.84	96.08	-0.68	3.60
Managed	74.99	80.20†	-1.44	1.49
Cash	51.74	51.74	+0.06	6.94
LLOYDS TSB UNIT TRUSTS				
0845 3002244				
American	420.74	445.22†	-35.42	
-do- Accum	463.42	490.39†	-40.12	
Brit Growth	156.58	165.69	-8.04	1.47
-do- Accum	199.05	210.64	-10.21	1.47
European	184.39	195.03†	+0.02	
-do- Accum	197.37	208.86†	+0.02	
Extra Income #	258.68	273.73†	-10.15	4.15
-do- Accum #	511.13	540.88†	-20.05	4.15
Smaller Cos	88.04	93.17†	-1.36	1.24
-do- Accum	102.31	108.27	-3.91	1.24
General	443.17	468.95†	-22.55	1.90
-do- Accum	975.21	1031.97†	-49.61	1.90
Premier Income	57.40	59.79†	-0.10	5.05
-do- Accum	158.68	165.29†	-0.27	5.05
High Income #	85.78	90.77	-3.08	3.92
-do- Accum #	125.49	132.79	-4.39	3.92
Income #	473.39	500.94	-22.73	3.70
-do- Accum #	1163.21	1230.92	-55.84	3.70
Pacific	194.18	205.46	-0.76	1.06
-do- Accum	204.01	215.88	-0.81	1.06
International	742.83	786.05	-34.11	0.17
-do- Accum	982.54	1039.73	-45.11	0.17
Intl Income	65.43	69.24	-0.02	3.88
-do- Accum	92.10	97.46	-0.03	3.88
Ntl Resources	97.42	103.09	+1.20	1.09
-do- Accum	107.72	113.98	+1.32	1.09
Sictd Opps	180.44	189.78	-9.06	1.53
-do- Accum	213.85	226.31	-12.08	1.53
Environmental Inv	109.94	116.34	-6.60	1.14
-do- Accum	125.55	132.86†	-7.54	1.14
Selector	89.22	94.41	-4.44	1.51
-do- Accum	105.80	111.96	-5.25	1.51
Selector Income	79.30	83.92	-2.31	3.71
-do- Accum	105.72	111.87	-3.08	3.71
UK Growth Inc	81.77	86.48†	-2.98	1.65
-do- Accum	86.94	92.00†	-3.17	1.65
UK Income Inc #	67.15	71.05†	-2.57	4.17
-do- Accum #	78.74	83.32†	-3.02	4.17
Wwide Gth Inc	73.17	77.43†	-2.66	0.30
-do- Accum	74.49	78.83†	-2.71	0.30
Other Unit Trusts within Lloyds TSB group				
Lloyds Bk Unit Tst Mgrs Ltd				
Helpdesk 01634 834239 Dealing 01634 834313				
Balanced	503.10	535.30	-15.20	2.11
-do- Accum	1223.00	1312.00	-37.00	2.11
Conv Euro Gilt	113.10	119.10	+3.80	0.23
-do- Accum	122.50	129.00	+4.10	0.23
Extra Inc #	356.20	379.00	-6.50	4.06
Extra Inc Acc #	1041.00	1108.00	-18.00	4.06
FTSE 100 Inc	159.80	170.00†	-2.00	2.03
FTSE 100 Acc	172.30	183.30	-2.30	2.03
Gwnsm Gth	210.90	222.08	+3.20	
-do- Accum	221.20	232.90	+3.40	
Growth Port	773.80	823.00	-10.60	0.15
-do- Accum	814.80	866.90	-11.00	0.15
High Interest Inc	114.90	119.10	-0.30	6.39
High Interest Acc	134.50	139.40	-0.40	6.39
Hi Reserve Inc #	125.00	133.00†	-6.60	5.20
Hi Reserve Acc #	149.70	158.70	-0.90	5.20
Income Inc #	695.40	739.89	-18.30	3.45
Income Acc #	2070.00	2203.00	-53.00	3.45
Income Port	683.60	726.60†	-5.30	4.00
-do- Accum	817.80	870.00	-6.20	4.00
Japan Growth	66.46	70.71	+0.53	
-do- Accum	68.69	70.95	+0.53	
Master Trust	77.06	82.00	-0.16	1.25
-do- Accum	91.88	97.75	-0.19	1.25
Millennium Acc	116.70	124.20	-12.40	2.07
N American Gen	337.19	358.70	-29.60	
-do- Accum	390.20	415.20	-34.20	
NAm Sm Co Rec	184.30	196.10	-11.90	
-do- Accum	188.10	200.20	-12.10	
Pacific Basin	109.00	116.00	+1.20	2.58
-do- Accum	117.50	125.10	+1.30	2.58
Safety First Acc	119.80	128.20	-1.40	1.28
-do- until 13/3/99 ‡	119.15			
Small Cos Rec	485.90	511.50	-31.90	2.49
-do- Accum	687.10	723.30	-44.30	2.49
UK Eq Gth	206.00	219.20	-8.50	2.41
UK Eq Inc #	164.30	174.80	-4.20	3.46
UK Capital	129.70	138.00	-4.10	1.79
-do- Accum	167.20	177.90	-5.30	1.79
Worldwide Gth	414.59	441.40†	-9.18	0.46
-do- Accum	614.10	653.30	-13.50	0.46
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
01392 282 673				
General	134.38	144.18	-2.41	2.38
Income	90.08	95.65†	-2.66	4.80
International	78.48	84.30	-1.35	0.80
Tst of Inv Trusts	79.31	85.09	-1.61	1.00
M & G SECURITIES				
Cust Srvc/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
American	586.90	619.58†	-33.80	0.84
-do- Accum	738.50	779.40†	-42.50	0.84
Amer Recovery	579.20	611.60	-31.10	0.77
-do- Accum	670.50	708.10	-35.90	0.77
Amer Smllr Cos	133.20	140.50†	-6.80	
-do- Accum	136.10	143.50†	-6.80	
Australasian	161.90	171.20†	+7.40	2.63
-do- Accum	212.70	224.80†	+9.70	2.63
Blue Chip #	85.29	85.63	-2.01	3.68
-do- Accum #	266.10	267.50	-6.26	3.68
British Opps	62.10	65.70	-1.00	2.97
-do- Accum	225.70	238.90	-3.70	2.97
Capital	1044.50	1104.60†	-22.50	2.86
-do- Accum	1305.50	1380.60†	-28.30	2.86
Charifund #	954.40	974.10	-20.60	5.13
-do- Accum #	5482.30	5537.20	-117.00	5.13
Commodity	262.00	277.10†	+16.90	1.67
-do- Accum	392.30	414.80†	+28.20	1.67
Corporate Bond	30.10	30.25	-0.22	5.89
Dividend #	51.80	54.80	-1.90	4.56
-do- Accum #	247.10	261.60	-9.40	4.56
Equity Income #	372.40	393.80	+5.10	5.12
-do- Accum #	551.70	583.40	+7.50	5.12
European	879.80	930.40	-16.90	0.73
-do- Accum	1139.10	1204.70	-21.90	0.73
Euro Dividend #	110.60	117.00	-0.50	3.16
-do- Accum #	148.50	157.20	-0.60	3.16
Euro Smlr Cos	73.40	77.60	+0.10	
-do- Accum	73.70	77.80		
Extra Income #	551.00	582.70	-12.90	5.19
-do- Accum #	1967.50	2080.70	-46.00	5.19
Fund of Inv Tsts	717.60	758.90	-18.40	1.27
-do- Accum	1413.40	1494.80	-36.20	1.27
Gilt Income	72.27	72.38†	-0.30	4.90
-do- Accum	243.29	243.67†	-1.00	4.90
Gold	29.50	31.20	+3.50	0.89
-do- Accum	35.80	37.90	+4.30	0.89
High Interest	25.03	25.03†	-0.04	7.45
Income #	38.90	41.10	-1.20	4.45
-do- Accum #	178.50	189.00	-5.70	4.45
Intl Growth	87.30	92.30†	-2.20	0.93
-do- Accum	156.30	165.30†	-3.90	0.93
International Inc #	125.60	133.10†	-1.98	4.40
-do- Accum #	211.30	223.50	-3.20	4.40
Japan	20.70	21.80	+1.10	0.04
-do- Accum	22.20	23.40	+1.10	0.04
Japan Smlr Cos	80.30	84.60	+3.00	0.01
-do- Accum	80.70	85.20	+3.10	0.01
Managed Gwth	28.40	28.61	-0.31	2.90
Managed Income #	34.69	34.86†	-0.50	4.40
Pension Ex	1298.00	1330.50	-28.00	3.27
Recovery	52.20	55.20	-1.10	3.39
-do- Accum	93.90	99.40	-2.00	3.39
Smaller Cos	64.50	68.20†	-2.20	2.34
-do- Accum	140.00	148.10†	-4.80	2.34
Sth East Asia	156.40	165.40†	-1.30	3.16
-do- Accum	216.10	228.60†	-1.80	3.16
Trustee #	51.30	54.30	-0.90	4.62
-do- Accum #	236.30	250.10	-4.30	4.62
UK Equity #	77.50	82.00	-1.50	4.21
-do- Accum #	224.10	237.20	-4.50	4.21
UK Growth	1361.40	1439.70	-90.70	7.96
-do- Accum	1552.00	1641.20	-57.30	1.96
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing 01277 261 010 Enq 01903 204 631				
European Growth	152.67	162.41	+1.85	0.60
Intl Bond	63.59	66.79	+0.40	2.78
Intl Equity Growth	94.63	100.46	-1.38	0.77
N Amer Growth	171.55	182.14	-11.56	0.47
Special Sits Growth	33.93	36.09†	-0.99	1.68
UK Growth	560.61	596.39	-6.18	2.13
-do- Accum	796.62	847.46	-9.00	2.13
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1421.90	1443.18	-0.70	2.90
Income #	1207.70	1228.40	-7.70	4.20
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	193.80	198.70†		3
MANEK INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
0171 615 7070				
Growth Fd Acc	89.05	94.99	-0.67	
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
High Income #	105.80	109.10†	-1.00	6.17
Investment Pflo	207.10	213.50	-5.10	1.71
-do- Accum	255.20	263.10	-6.30	1.71
UK Select Pflo	196.49	202.50	-6.30	1.46
-do- Accum	245.30	252.80	-7.90	1.46
UK 100 Cos	152.90	152.90†	-7.20	1.91
-do- Accum	161.78	161.70†	-5.40	1.91
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 389 080				
Managed Tst	83.46	88.79	-1.03	3.71
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	95.88	100.90†	-2.40	4.17
European	145.10	154.09	-1.90	0.54
Income #	98.96	105.10†	-1.90	3.78
Nth American	90.98	96.58	-4.92	
Far East	101.89	108.10	-0.60	0.36
Japan	45.86	48.72	+0.96	
Emrging Mkts	50.56	54.07	-0.14	0.44
Intl Growth	126.40	134.20	-2.70	0.86
UK Growth	130.70	138.70	-4.50	1.86
UK Smlr Co	56.18	59.64	-3.32	1.80
Asia Pacific	17.75	18.99	-0.15	0.16
Glob Gwth PEP	68.74	72.96	-0.91	0.66
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0161 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	101.10	107.60	-8.20	
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Income	591.76	629.53†	-13.91	2.69
Global Inc	92.83	98.76†	-1.39	2.32
Bst Leaders Inc	431.00	458.51†	-11.76	1.85
Intl Leaders	260.38	277.00†	-9.38	0.36
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0800 445522				
American	380.10	400.40	-31.00	
-do- Accum	406.40	428.10	-33.20	
American Opps	116.10	123.70	-6.90	
-do- Accum	117.60	125.30	-7.00	
Bal Port	109.40	116.10	+0.20	2.56
-do- Accum	139.60	148.10	+0.20	2.56
British Blue Chip	124.20	132.10	+1.20	2.50
-do- Accum	165.40	176.00	+1.60	2.50
Cash	100.80	100.80	+0.18	7.18
-do- Accum	163.10	163.10	+0.18	7.18
Emerging Mkts	72.69	78.16	-0.33	0.39
-do- Accum	73.72	79.27	-0.34	0.39
European Growth	468.00	495.90†	+17.60	0.11
-do- Accum	511.40	541.80†	+19.20	0.11
General	671.50	713.39†	-13.40	2.18
-do- Accum	1424.00	1513.00†	-18.00	2.18
Global Bond	135.10	142.80	+1.00	4.11
-do- Accum	192.10	201.90	+1.50	4.11
Gold & General	98.64	105.60	+17.72	
-do- Accum	102.10	109.70	+18.35	
Govt Securities	186.90	110.20	-0.20	4.71
-do- Accum	246.60	254.20	-0.40	4.71
High Yield Bd	113.30	116.00†	-0.70	5.45
-do- Accum	133.30	136.50†	-0.70	5.45
Income	226.60	241.50†	-0.30	3.93
-do- Accum	400.60	427.20†	-0.30	3.93
Inc Portfolio #	130.60	138.40	-0.60	5.09
-do- Accum #	153.70	163.00	-0.60	5.09
Intl Opps	544.40	580.50	+0.80	0.91
-do- Accum	744.30	793.90	+1.30	0.91
Japan	114.30	121.10	+4.80	
-do- Accum	117.40	124.40	+5.00	
New Europe	296.20	315.90	+7.80	0.59
-do- Accum	312.40	333.70	+8.30	0.59
Pacific	45.31	48.24	-1.75	1.21
-do- Accum	49.30	52.50	-1.90	1.21
Recovery	463.80	494.70	+3.70	2.82
-do- Accum	629.10	671.00	+4.40	2.82
UF Smaller Cos	61.29	65.38†	-1.70	1.82
-do- Accum	72.64	77.48†	-2.02	1.82
Managed Grth	132.50	138.80	-0.50	1.63
Managed Inc	139.30	144.70	-0.20	3.81
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 126 Mon-Fri 8am-6pm				
Balanced	79.95	83.72	-1.16	2.27
-do- Accum	91.18	95.48	-1.33	2.27
British Tst	134.50	140.80	-2.60	1.78
-do- Accum	167.00	174.90	-2.50	1.78
Corp Bond Inc	109.70	113.70†	-0.20	5.77
-do- Accum	124.50	129.00†	-0.20	5.77
Extra High Inc #	87.61	91.74	-0.77	5.85
-do- Accum #	206.50	216.20	-1.80	5.85
FTSE 100 Acc	94.27	98.71	-2.09	1.83
FTSE 100 Dist	85.21	89.73	-1.86	1.83
Gilt & Fxd Int	62.49	64.93†	-0.92	5.64
-do- Accum	218.70	228.60†	-0.50	5.64
High Yield #	288.70	312.80	-3.20	5.61
-do- Accum #	886.80	939.10	-9.80	5.61
Household Names	126.30	128.88†	-1.70	1.26
Income #	395.00	413.60†	-6.90	3.83
-do- Accum #	980.80	1037†	-16.80	3.83
Money Market UT	49.47	49.47†	+0.05	6.61
-do- Accum	91.28	91.28†	+0.09	6.61
Monthly Income	118.40	124.00†	-1.50	3.92
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	174.70	185.80	-2.70	1.78
European Growth	216.40	229.40	-11.90	
Gilt & Fixed	125.10	132.70	-0.30	4.42
Income	135.90	144.60	-2.20	3.66
Japan Growth	28.81	30.54	+0.73	
Managed	100.00	106.40	-0.80	2.22
Money Market	106.70	113.10	+0.20	6.12
North American	141.30	149.80	-15.80	
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	158.20	168.30	-2.50	1.78
European Growth	202.90	215.00	-11.70	
Gilt & Fixed Int	115.90	123.00	-0.20	4.42
Income	133.10	141.60	-2.10	3.66
Japan Growth	28.93	30.67	+0.73	
Managed	94.95	101.00	-1.40	2.23
Money Market	98.28	104.20	+0.20	6.12
North American	126.60	134.20	-13.90	
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	156.80	166.80	-2.50	1.76
European Growth	197.20	209.00	-11.30	
Gilt & Fixed Int	102.30	108.40	-0.20	4.46
Income	129.20	137.40	-2.10	3.67
Japan Growth	29.58	31.27	+0.74	
Managed	98.42	104.70	-1.40	2.25
Money Market	87.89	93.16	+0.09	5.72
North American	141.00	149.40	-15.70	
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD				
Dealers: 0171 545 7474 Enquiries: 0171 545 7171				
American Grth	602.90	637.90	-50.80	
European Gth Inc	714.80	760.60	-11.10	
-do- Accum	722.60	768.90	-11.30	
UK Equity Inc	261.80	278.60	-5.30	4.39
Do Accum	375.00	399.00	-7.70	4.39
UK Growth Inc	156.60	168.30†	-3.70	2.48
-do- Accum	164.70	177.00†	-4.00	2.48
UK Ind Trckr Inc	237.60	253.00	-5.40	2.68
-do- Accum	307.20	327.10	-6.90	2.68
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	378.40	393.20†	-28.80	0.82
Asian Trader	85.84	91.96	-3.72	0.70
Mngd Ptflo Inc	215.30	230.40	-3.90	1.47
Mngd Ptflo Acc	243.40	260.50	-4.50	1.47
Europa	284.18	305.98†	+0.69	
High Income	19.34	20.68	-0.27	10.00
Japan Growth	67.50	71.89†	+1.83	
UK Blue Chip Acc	136.50	145.40	-2.50	1.64
Alt-Wdtr Eq Acc	92.23	98.68†	-0.52	
Wld Opps Gth Acc	82.35	87.58	-4.42	1.00
Wld Opps Gth Inc	82.35	87.58	-4.42	1.00
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
0345 600 933				
American Growth	65.58	66.98†	-2.98	
Equity Income #	123.80	127.30	-2.00	3.83
European	124.10	126.40	+2.18	
Smaller Cos	81.22	85.92	-2.80	1.24
W'wide Eqty	84.24	85.91†	+0.21	
Global Bond	42.56	43.01†	+0.26	4.23
UK Growth	128.90	132.70	-2.30	1.56
Pacific Growth	51.92	53.29†	-0.31	2.05
Japan Growth	77.73	79.06†	+4.08	
OEICS				
Portfolio Acc A ‡	47.34		-0.03	2.09
Portfolio Inc A ‡	47.10		-0.04	2.09
Gilt Acc A ‡	53.63		-0.36	5.88
Gilt Inc A ‡	52.43		-0.36	5.88
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Avon Equity	186.22	198.11	-5.11	1.96
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS				
0171 623 4200				
American Dist	149.60	158.40	-7.40	
European Dist	221.80	233.50	-1.30	
Far East Dist	91.34	96.15†	+1.66	
Global Care Dist	103.60	108.90	-2.60	0.81
Oseas Dist	1086.40	1143.60	-11.70	
-do- Accum	1413.60	1488.00	-15.40	
UK Dist	523.20	550.70	-12.00	1.10
-do- Accum	1096.20	1153.90	-25.10	1.10
UK Extra Inc Dist	113.70	119.78†	-1.40	2.02
Wwde Dist	121.39	127.70	-2.20	0.11
Wwide Inc Dist	96.96	102.06	-1.32	1.48
NATWEST UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
Dlg: 0870 601 6147 Admin Enq: 0870 603 9188				
Europe Inc	116.82	123.29	-0.34	0.63
Fund of Fonds Inc	78.80	80.84	-1.11	1.09
North America Inc	76.05	80.26	-6.20	
UK Equity Grth Inc	86.25	91.03	-1.20	1.19
-do- Accum	96.28	101.61	-1.36	1.19
UK General Inc	81.24	85.74	-2.61	1.17
-do- Accum	92.78	97.92	-2.99	1.17
Uk Gilt/Fx Int Inc	51.95	54.71	-0.14	5.59
UK Income Inc	79.19	83.58†	-2.07	1.84
UK Smlr Cos Inc	128.60	135.73	-3.70	1.74
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0800 614 330 Dealing: 0500 440 000				
American	61.14	65.04	-4.36	
-do- Accum	61.61	65.54	-4.39	
Intl Bond	142.55	151.33	+0.12	4.33
Cash Income	50.94	50.94	+0.05	6.74
-do- Accum	75.85	75.85	+0.08	6.74
Challenger	93.56	98.28	-0.87	1.72
Distributor	134.34	142.91†	-3.43	2.18
European	95.70	101.80	+1.59	
Exmt H. Gilt	111.24	111.32	-0.17	2.12
Foundation	126.22	134.27†	-5.43	1.10
Managed Inc	268.38	285.51	-2.15	1.34
Managed Acc	276.38	294.02	-2.21	1.34
Growth Inc	168.69	179.45	-4.81	0.91
Growth Acc	176.95	188.24	-5.05	0.91
Higher Income Inc #	41.73	44.39†	-1.45	4.65
-do- Accum #	35.01	36.52†	-0.67	4.65
High Yield Bond #	102.07	106.51†	-0.94	7.08
Income	371.64	395.36	-3.25	2.28
Intergrd	167.85	172.86	-6.07	1.17
Intl Gth	42.62	45.33	-1.25	
Japan	20.36	21.65†	+0.54	
Oriental Inc	75.82	80.70†	-2.66	0.32
-do- Accum	79.11	84.15†	-2.71	0.32
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD				
0191 285 2595				
High Income #	58.14	59.12	-0.21	5.56
UK Growth	126.00	129.80		1.49
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS				
01603 682 234				
Master Trust	157.31	166.60†	-4.78	1.51
UK Equity	202.16	214.83†	-6.08	2.58
UK Equity Income #	182.78	194.87	-2.36	4.86
UK Smaller Cos	149.15	162.89	-3.22	1.80
UK Equity Growth	182.01	194.85	-5.28	0.73
UK Index Trckg	207.44	219.68†	-3.95	2.45
Intl Index Trckg	187.87	199.27†	-6.66	0.74
International	298.32	316.74	-6.17	1.01
European	382.75	405.98†	+5.69	0.37
Pan European	218.85	232.20	+1.35	1.20
Nth American	286.33	303.59	-20.10	0.17
N Amer Smlr Cos	314.92	335.00	-17.91	0.09
Japanese	58.36	61.80	+1.83	
Pacific	125.21	133.08	+0.12	2.42
South East Asian	120.00	128.14	-4.08	2.99
Sterling Bond	113.71	119.69	-0.76	5.31
Intl Bond	124.52	131.07†	+1.62	4.03
Gilt & Convertible	123.30	129.79	-0.46	5.39
Property	94.58	99.56	+0.25	4.70
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD				
01256 768 888				
European Inc	445.90	477.80	-4.60	0.44
-do- Accum	474.80	508.70	-4.90	0.44
Japan Inc	61.12	64.74	+2.12	
Nth American Inc	213.39	225.69†	-21.10	
Worldwide Inc	214.20	227.40†	-10.20	
HK & China Inc	87.17	93.38†	-1.98	3.49
Swiss Equities Inc	128.90	137.80	+2.80	
Wwde Bond Inc	70.02	74.01†	-0.84	4.02
Emging Asia Inc	72.52	78.08	-2.97	2.53
-do- Accum	73.87	78.88	-2.99	2.53
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.29	50.29†	+0.06	6.72
Thailand Inc	22.27	24.11	-1.21	0.21
Intl Mngd PEP Inc	81.93	87.82	-2.95	0.59
Latin Am Corp Inc	42.86	46.08	-2.15	1.77
UK All Sh Mln Inc	86.82	88.41	-2.50	2.34
Broker Unit Trusts				
Way Global Blue	91.81	97.67	-3.33	0.19
Global Portfolio	76.00	81.38	-3.40	
Way Global Rcd	67.63	71.95	-3.74	
March Global Gth	63.93	67.79	-2.14	0.83
AMR Brit Gwth Inc	138.00	148.00	-2.70	1.33
Temple Equity Inc	51.82	55.76	-1.00	1.00
Hartley Growth	150.90	160.50†	-1.70	1.60
IPS Portfolio Inc	105.60	111.70	-5.40	
UFC Growth	73.15	77.41	-2.51	0.23
Chartfield Port of Fds	58.87	62.48		0.12
Pyp Intl Equity	80.96	86.59	-2.88	0.88
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dlg: 0800 626 577 Enq: 01733 470 470				
Equity	349.60	371.90	-4.59	1.46
-do- Accum	792.60	843.10	-10.10	1.46
Growth	230.50	242.50	-2.59	1.81
Income	385.10	356.40	-7.30	2.76
Intl Equity	327.20	337.40†	-1.70	0.22
-do- Accum	358.70	379.50	-1.40	0.22
Equity Income #	88.12	93.74	-1.89	4.05
Equity Growth	170.50	178.10	-1.48	1.27
New Europe	148.90	158.30	+5.00	
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT				
01491 417 000				
Intl Growth Inc	748.74	800.10	-14.89	0.48
-do- Accum	756.48	808.37	-14.84	0.48
Income #	558.01	596.81	-15.67	3.27
Wwide Recovery	489.93	523.35	-11.64	0.41
Amer Growth Inc	345.96	367.79	-21.38	
-do- Accum	345.96	367.79	-21.38	
Intl Emerging Cos	290.91	311.14	-7.63	0.19
Far Esn Grth Inc	170.09	181.92	+4.82	2.04
-do- Accum	173.52	185.58	+4.91	2.04
Euro Grth Inc	282.43	301.38	+0.74	0.67
-do- Accum	283.41	302.43	+0.75	0.67
UK Growth Inc	133.82	143.13	-3.73	2.34
-do- Accum	149.86	160.31	-4.17	2.34
High Income #	145.50	155.62	-4.15	3.45
Jap Grwth Inc	122.89	131.46	+6.56	0.14
-do- Accum	122.98	131.46	+6.58	0.14
PEP Bond	67.89	70.93	-1.00	6.90
PEP Growth	169.65	181.25	-3.04	0.86
Asian Sh Mkts Inc	54.98	58.81	-0.41	0.72
-do- Accum	55.47	59.33	-0.42	0.72
Amer Smlr Co Inc	214.69	229.11	-18.58	
-do- Accum	214.69	229.11	-18.58	
Global Bond	51.30	54.87	-1.78	4.90
UK Smaller Cos Inc	109.31	116.91	-5.30	2.04
-do- Accum	119.86	128.20	-5.81	2.04
Lat Am Grth Inc	20.83	22.28	-1.45	1.63
-do- Accum	21.16	22.64	-1.47	1.63
World Inc PEP #	46.00	49.32†	-1.07	3.63
PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0191 201 3927				
American	152.97	162.73	-18.43	
European	136.15	144.84†	-4.80	
Global	34.60	36.89	-2.77	
Pacific	29.61	31.38	-0.76	
UK Inc & Grth	94.50	100.53	-6.82	1.25
PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0171 638 0808 Dlg: 0171 588 8880				
Asia	27.74	29.35	-1.85	
Emerg Mkts	24.24	25.65†	-0.73	0.86
Euro Fund	59.16	62.60	-1.56	
Fund of Funds	209.80	222.10	-9.40	0.02
High Income #	61.34	64.91†	-1.64	5.36
Performance	50.96	53.93	-2.64	
Select Managers	92.79	98.19	-2.31	
PREMIER PORTFOLIO MGRS LTD				
01483 456 832				
Dividend	136.20	145.70†	+1.00	3.81
Intl Gth & Inc	292.00	310.80	-14.50	
UK & Gen	89.17	94.35†	-1.97	0.77
Fund of Funds	76.49	81.08	-5.30	
Prem Bal Growth	71.59	74.53†	-4.01	0.07
Enterprise	116.40	122.50	-3.20	1.40
PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01732 740 700				
Principal Tst	183.77	201.23†	-2.57	1.78
For Prolific UT see Aberdeen Prolific UT				
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
UT Dealing: 0345 406000 Client Enq: 0345 835500				
Managed Tst	46.96	48.66†	-0.47	2.25
Cash Haven Inc	101.21	101.71†	+9.10	6.52
Cash Haven Acc	129.70	130.34	+6.12	6.52
Dist Trust Inc	117.07	121.37	-1.56	5.80
Dist Trust Acc	142.97	148.16	-1.80	5.80
Global Growth	111.32	118.48†	-1.64	0.08
Equity Inc	102.73	108.76†	-1.47	3.95
Equity	1059.54	1127.17	-21.89	1.52
European	384.21	398.15	+1.38	0.35
High Income	105.64	112.35	-2.10	4.89
Intl Gth	222.48	235.68†	-2.58	0.90
Intl Sm Co	88.98	94.64	-1.38	1.31
Japanese	108.80	112.54†	+6.28	
Mgd Income Tst #	51.48	53.24	-0.15	7.36
Nth Amer	291.58	301.78	-13.20	0.78
Pacific Mktr	55.63	57.65†	-0.67	3.19
Premier Inc	52.25	54.38†	-0.13	6.29
Sm Cos	106.11	112.86	-2.79	2.03
Spec Sits	148.74	156.11	-2.37	1.88
UK Growth	178.56	189.96†	-3.67	1.57
QUILTER FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Hi Inc Inv Inc	102.94	109.39†	-3.98	3.51
Investment Trust	121.73	129.36†	-2.75	0.53
UK Smaller Cos	117.58	124.95	-1.91	1.79
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD				
01892 510 033				
British Life	433.80	460.10	-7.40	2.41
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT				
Dealers: 0171 623 1000 Client Services: 0800 124 314				
Five Arrows Portfolio Fund				
Asia Pacific	23.52	24.56	-1.77	
Cash	48.56	50.57	+0.03	5.55
Emerging Mkts	27.91	29.14	-1.85	
Europe	90.90	94.29	-2.38	
Global Fixed Int #	49.81	52.02	-0.08	4.29
Japan	26.38	27.56	+0.27	
North America	80.32	83.88	-8.59	
UK	79.92	83.46	-4.03	
UK Equity Inc #	72.24	75.44	-3.00	3.58
UK Fixed Int #	56.53	59.03	-0.18	6.19
Five Arrows Independently Managed Funds				
Independent Gwth	58.74	61.83	-3.49	
Independent Inc #	60.31	63.48	-2.44	3.56
Five Arrows Global Investment Funds				
A Shares				
Asian Opps ‡	23.42		-0.48	0.95
Asia Pacific ‡	24.06		+0.22	1.41
Europe ‡	52.94		+1.45	
Japan ‡	34.02		+1.40	
Latin America ‡	21.18		-0.83	1.30
North America ‡	47.87		-2.95	
UK Eq Income #	50.63		-0.10	3.97
UK Major Cos ‡	51.89		-0.89	0.85
UK Smaller Cos ‡	53.13		-0.73	1.47
ROYAL & SUN ALLIANCE UT MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083				
Royal & Sun Alliance Trusts				
Equity	1407.00	1498.00	-36.00	1.30
Equity Income #	138.90	146.90	-3.00	4.21
European	252.60	267.30	+4.90	
High Inc Bond	51.24	51.32	+0.01	5.60
Portfolio	134.90	142.70	-2.40	1.30
UK Index Trckg	248.20	262.60	-4.40	3.98
UK Leading Cos	106.70	112.90	-2.00	2.44
UK Smaller Cos	137.50	145.50	-2.30	1.17
Royal Life Trusts				
High Inc Dist	206.60	218.60	-4.60	3.18
Intl Growth	87.99	93.11	-3.41	
Managed	217.90	230.50†	-3.80	0.48
Pacific Basin	48.71	51.88	+1.14	0.74
United States	164.60	174.10†	-13.70	0.31
Sun Alliance Trusts				
Far East	104.50	110.50	+3.00	1.48
W'wide Bond	57.67	60.60	-0.45	4.89
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01206 764 400				
American Growth	243.20	258.00†	-19.80	1.03
European Growth	232.00	246.80†	-10.10	1.23
Far East Growth	66.56	70.81	-3.19	3.59
Japan Growth	74.43	79.15	+2.82	0.58
Special Sits	232.30	247.10	-16.70	2.63
UK Growth	124.80	132.70	-8.70	2.50
Intl Growth	308.60	328.40	-16.20	1.63
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD				
0141 307 6500				
Far East Inc	81.50	86.25	+2.22	1.37
Gtr Euro Prog Inc	576.10	609.60	-7.00	1.31
-do- Accum	910.50	963.50	-11.00	1.31
Growth Inc	181.20	191.70†	-4.50	1.20
-do- Accum	187.40	198.30†	-3.70	1.20
International Inc	476.10	503.80†	-8.70	0.86
-do- Accum	664.50	703.20†	-11.30	0.86
Nth Am & Intl Inc	459.80	486.60	-15.10	1.80
UK Gen Prog Inc	337.40	357.00	-4.50	2.01
-do- Accum	397.00	420.10	-5.40	2.01
UK High Inc Inc	180.40	190.90†	-3.00	4.10
SANWA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD				
0171 330 0572				
European Gwth	134.80	143.40	+3.52	1.00
Global Bd	61.96	65.50	+0.62	5.60
UK Gwth	117.68	125.19	-2.32	1.75
SARASIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Dlg 0171 782 8430 Enq 0171 246 0399				
Growth Acc	329.80	346.10	-33.00	
Income	656.90	693.60†	-27.70	4.49
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP				
Clients: 0800 829 100 Brokerline: 0800 727 770				
Amer Smllr Cos	148.10	157.50	-10.80	
Cash	149.30	149.30	+8.10	6.94
China Dragon	34.81	37.03	-0.78	2.23
Commodity	75.15	79.95	+0.89	
Emerging Mkts	22.46	23.81	-0.63	1.05
Euro Growth	342.30	364.10	+1.80	
Euro Smllr Cos	93.56	99.53	-1.37	
Euro Income #	66.24	70.71†	-0.64	5.13
Far Eastern	57.81	61.29	+8.57	
FE Sm Cos	29.63	31.52	+0.34	0.86
Financial Secs	408.60	434.70	-20.00	0.51
Gold & Exploration	24.73	26.31	+0.75	
Growth	544.70	547.40	-14.90	0.71
High Income	54.73	54.73†	-0.10	6.72
Intl Bond	154.40	163.50†	-0.40	4.61
ITU	233.70	248.60	-5.80	0.23
Japan Growth	107.20	113.60†	+2.69	
Japan Smaller	93.53	99.50	+1.14	
Korea	14.86	15.81	-0.05	
Latin America	25.91	27.56	-1.58	2.75
Masterfund	70.76	71.12	-2.56	0.82
Premier Eq Grth	220.20	234.30	-6.30	0.55
Premier Eq Inc #	459.90	489.30	-9.50	3.83
SE Asia	20.27	21.56	-0.78	1.05
Southern Africa	26.01	27.67†	+2.41	1.28
UK & O'seas	220.60	234.70	-8.20	0.09
UK Eqty Gth	106.60	113.40	-3.20	0.42
Uk Eqty Inc #	327.90	348.80	-8.30	3.94
Uk Grth & Inc #	386.20	410.90†	-13.90	2.50
Uk Sm Cos	83.43	87.48	-3.01	0.23
US Growth	270.20	287.20	-19.60	
New Europe ‡	29.66		+0.35	
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Cst: 0800 526 535 Brkr: 0800 526 540				
Retail Funds				
American	456.98	482.78	-30.73	0.86
-do- Accum	509.37	538.13	-34.25	0.86
European Gwth	130.49	138.29	-0.23	0.05
Euro Smllr Cos	138.30	148.48	-1.04	0.02
-do- Accum	141.21	150.83	-1.05	0.02
Far Eastern Gth	62.98	67.17†	-0.47	0.39
-do- Accum	64.25	68.53†	-0.48	0.39
Gilt & Fixed Int #	58.95	62.10†	-1.89	6.76
Global Bond #	44.53	46.00	+0.44	5.64
-do- Accum #	58.70	60.65	+0.58	5.64
Global Emer Mkts	28.45	30.34	-0.33	0.01
-do- Accum	28.55	30.44	-0.33	0.01
Income #	467.25	496.39†	-14.81	5.07
-do- Accum #	1704.49	1818.14†	-54.03	5.07
Japan Smllr Cos	176.45	188.21	+6.55	
-do- Accum	176.80	188.59	+6.57	
Japan Enterprise	39.23	41.84	+1.74	
Pacific Gwth	63.95	68.21†	-2.31	1.50
-do- Accum	67.11	71.58†	-2.42	1.50
Portfolio	105.22	111.75†	-2.34	1.93
-do- Accum	120.54	128.03†	-2.68	1.93
Seoul	11.60	12.37	+0.02	0.86
-do- Accum	11.60	12.37	+0.02	0.86
Strategic Inc	108.76	115.85†	-3.32	0.87
Strategic Acc	112.80	120.25†	-3.45	0.87
Tokyo	87.66	93.50†	+4.42	
-do- Accum	88.55	94.45†	+4.47	
Uk Enterprise	356.15	379.89	-17.48	1.63
-do- Accum	457.40	487.89	-22.44	1.63
UK Equity	351.42	374.84	-14.40	0.83
-do- Accum	737.39	786.56	-30.21	0.83
UK Smaller Cos	371.48	396.24	-12.57	0.94
-do- Accum	448.44	478.33	-15.17	0.94
US Smllr Cos	282.02	300.82	-16.66	
-do- Accum	282.02	300.82	-16.66	
Institutional Funds				
European	420.06	435.79†	+15.45	0.93
-do- Accum	482.75	500.84†	+17.76	0.93
Euro Smllr Cos	44.10	45.93	+0.52	1.28
-do- Accum	48.28	50.28	+0.57	1.28
Global Equity Inc	105.79	109.82	-2.13	0.66
Japan Smllr Cos	17.77	18.51	+0.62	0.21
-do- Accum	18.05	18.80	+0.62	0.21
Overseas Equity	218.70	227.15	-5.15	0.87
-do- Accum	233.47	242.48	-5.49	0.87
Oseas Smllr Cos	122.30	127.39†	+2.35	0.36
-do- Accum	130.80	136.35†	+2.52	0.36
Pacific	118.36	123.29	+0.06	3.19
-do- Accum	134.89	140.51	+0.08	3.19
Recovery	2406.82	2507.10†	-58.35	3.39
-do- Accum	2778.24	2893.99†	-67.36	3.39
UK Index	230.38	239.97	-5.81	2.70
-do- Accum	310.40	323.33	-7.83	2.70
UK Small Cos	145.68	151.74†	-4.51	2.96
-do- Accum	168.66	175.69†	-5.21	2.96
US Smlr Cos	60.75	63.28	-4.87	0.09
-do- Accum	62.85	65.47	-5.03	0.09
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD				
0141 264 2200				
Equity Income	68.70	72.65†	-3.68	1.79
Equity Trust	98.05	103.69†	-5.03	2.23
Equity Strategy	97.55	103.16†	-5.45	1.47
European Opps	143.52	151.77	-2.11	0.59
UK Smaller Cos	75.08	79.40†	-4.87	1.52
Maximum Inc	98.46	101.02†	+0.15	6.17
Japanese	41.29	43.66	+2.51	
Asia Pacific	57.81	61.13	-0.27	1.14
American	164.20	173.56	-7.47	1.12
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD				
0800 454 422				
Cash	36.61	36.61†	+0.04	7.14
Uk Eq Gth Inc	72.56	77.40†	-2.45	2.41
-do- Accum	102.82	109.68†	-3.45	2.41
Intl Income	338.53	360.43	-8.32	1.48
-do- Accum	608.17	647.52	-14.93	1.48
European	151.79	161.12	+0.62	1.12
Japan	41.72	44.19	+1.84	
American	138.01	147.01†	-12.01	0.91
Far East Ind	42.02	44.82	1.52	3.76
Ethical Inc	43.26	46.26	-0.94	1.78
-do- Accum	51.25	54.81	-1.08	1.78
UK Blue Chip Inc	49.60	53.01†	-0.83	2.38
-do- Accum	62.44	66.73†	-1.05	2.38
UK Equity Inc	54.68	58.33	-0.33	3.65
-do- Accum	84.04	89.64	-0.50	3.65
UK Global Inc	58.81	62.65†	-1.10	2.17
-do- Accum	66.06	70.37†	-1.24	2.17
Wwide Tact	99.39	105.87	-3.13	1.28
Europe Tactical	114.21	121.83	+1.98	0.70
Technology	197.78	208.98	-12.72	0.36
Dist Inc	29.70	31.51	-0.24	5.25
-do- Accum	32.49	34.47	-0.35	5.25
UK Ext Inc Inc	27.70	29.31†	+0.01	6.68
-do- Accum	30.79	32.57†	+0.01	6.68
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
0131 225 2211				
UK Equity	637.30	679.00	-13.70	1.92
American	455.80	483.50	-37.50	0.22
Pacific	237.40	253.70	+7.30	0.44
European	896.70	924.60	+7.20	0.75
Worldwide	94.80	100.70	-2.70	0.35
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD				
0141 248 6100				
UK Equity Inc	399.90	425.40	-9.30	1.91
-do- Accum	546.80	581.60	-12.70	1.91
UK Sh Co Tq Inc	297.20	312.90	-7.10	3.24
-do- Accum	298.30	318.40	-8.90	3.24
Select Opptny Inc	97.99	104.80†	-4.60	1.51
Income Plus Inc	102.79	109.70†	-4.20	3.77
European Inc	632.30	671.20†	+10.40	0.81
-do- Accum	733.60	778.70	+12.10	0.81
Far Eastern Inc	83.35	89.27†	-0.13	2.42
-do- Accum	98.52	104.80	-0.10	2.42
Japanese Inc	37.31	39.91†	-1.43	
Nth American Inc	428.80	455.10	-38.60	0.05
-do- Accum	473.80	504.70	-42.70	0.05
Intl Growth Inc	240.40	256.50	-3.80	0.47
Wwde Venture Inc	104.00	110.40†	-2.70	0.73
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT				
0131 660 3724				
Equity Inc	531.50	561.50	-28.90	1.82
-do- Accum	838.20	885.60	-45.60	1.82
UK High Inc #	259.40	274.10	-10.40	3.53
-do- Accum #	419.80	443.50	-16.90	3.53
Europe Inc	729.70	761.40	-13.80	0.32
-do- Accum	768.00	811.40	-14.70	0.32
Hi Asia Inc	426.10	428.00	-37.20	
Global Inc	286.40	302.60	-14.50	0.27
Global Acc	312.30	329.80	-14.40	0.27
UK Spec Sits Inc	146.00	154.20	-10.30	1.03
South East Asia	86.10	90.95	-0.49	1.74
Cash Trust Inc	101.40	101.40	+0.10	6.82
UK Smlr Cos Inc	115.10	121.80	-5.80	2.51
-do- Accum	125.10	132.10	-6.40	2.51
Intl Bond Inc	91.22	95.83	+1.51	2.96
International Strat	88.37	93.58	-3.48	
SHARP (ALBERT E)				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
European	226.80	240.80†	+8.70	0.15
Nth American	167.80	176.30†	-18.10	
Intl Bond & Conv	138.80	146.20	-0.70	5.47
Pooled Pension	278.50	299.20	-4.40	2.13
Smaller Cos	124.20	130.70	-9.30	1.05
UK General #	201.60	212.20	-4.80	2.82
Far Eastern	43.64	45.94	+1.57	1.28
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD				
0171 626 6226				
Commercial	133.76	141.20	+5.70	0.70
Global Gwth	94.07	99.33	-0.36	0.50
Inv Tst Port	80.95	85.26	-0.94	1.80
Managed	1537.93	1623.76	-14.29	2.80
Pref Inc #	113.10	120.10	-6.28	8.90
Smaller Cos	267.90	285.00	-6.60	0.80
Ireland SIB Recognised				
UK Equity Inc ‡	113.49		-1.45	3.80
Sterling Reserve ‡	101.51		+0.11	6.74
Corporate Inc ‡	105.60		-0.10	6.34
Tai Pan ‡	53.99		-0.82	
Aztec ‡	43.67		-1.98	
Amer Gth Fund ‡	169.47		-13.86	
Europtim ‡	239.31		+1.88	
Global Bond ‡	92.76			0.58
Samurai ‡	35.96		+1.09	
UK Growth ‡	129.14		-2.34	3.04
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	80.23		-2.26	3.48
Investment Trust ‡	115.84		-4.78	2.18
The Football Fd ‡	71.58		-8.26	
Reserve Roll Up ‡	107.12		+0.11	
Dram Reserve ‡	101.20		+1.67	4.79
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS				
0171 637 5377				
American	544.10	574.69	-65.69	0.10
Capital	167.10	176.80†	-10.89	1.24
Cash	102.64	102.64	+0.11	7.08
European	218.90	231.60	-5.19	0.24
Far Eastern	103.30	109.20	-2.30	0.67
Growth	300.20	211.80†	-10.40	1.40
Income #	169.10	178.90†	-10.80	5.17
Magnum	169.50	179.30	-10.30	1.27
Smlr Secs	625.00	661.20	-38.86	0.09
Thoroughbred	201.20	212.89	-12.80	1.37
SOCIETE GENERALE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Broker Desk 0800 783 3004				
UK Growth Acc	82.12	87.36†	-2.34	1.72
Technology	84.45	89.79	-5.49	
Euro Gwth Acc	78.99	83.98	+0.23	
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0800 73 11 093				
Cradle Balance	62.06	64.00	-0.49	6.50
Ethical	85.22	91.14	-1.17	0.86
European Growth	118.30	126.50	+2.70	0.03
Income #	68.25	72.99	-2.72	4.03
Intl Growth	117.30	124.90	-4.40	0.88
Managed	112.70	119.49	-1.50	0.12
UK Growth	77.87	83.06	-1.83	1.01
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS				
0800 33 33 53				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	52.19	52.46†	-1.93	1.66
Global Advtg Acc	57.88	58.17	-3.14	1.56
Income Advtg Inc	42.19	42.41	-1.77	4.41
Income Advtg Acc	51.92	52.18	-2.18	4.41
UK Equity Gth Acc	139.00	137.80	-4.80	1.25
Premier Inc Inc	56.12	58.09	-8.04	6.03
Premier Inc Acc	66.14	68.46	-9.05	6.03
Managed Acc	72.18	78.52	-2.58	1.59
UK Eq HI Inc Inc #	50.29	53.31	-1.89	4.34
UK Eq HI Inc Acc #	70.49	74.72	-2.65	4.34
UK Ethical	46.66	48.38	-2.43	1.33
UK Smlr Cos Acc	62.53	66.29	-3.63	0.76
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd				
UK Equity Gen Acc	101.00	107.40	-5.40	1.38
UK Equity Gen Inc	70.66	75.08	-3.78	1.38
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	36.46	38.58	+0.06	5.48
Dunes Lrg Co Acc	363.80	384.80	-14.80	1.39
Nth American Acc	70.32	74.72	-4.82	0.16
Pacific Basin	21.18	22.49	-1.53	2.02
European Acc	79.85	84.85	-1.31	0.02
Japan Acc	17.78	18.90	+0.73	
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD				
0171 344 7000				
Global A (HZS)	5.683	5.954	-0.50	1.76
UK Eqts (US$)	4.136	4.377	-0.36	0.62
Far East Eqts (yen)	215.186	228.186	-7.84	
FT Europe	212.68	223.60	-13.63	0.99
FT N Amer (US$)	3.801	4.018	-8.40	
FT Japan (yen)	120.338	126.933	-4.87	
FT Asia Exjap (US$)	1.488	1.600	-0.10	0.97
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 226 3271				
American	559.80	592.10	-42.00	
British #	1542.	1631.40	-53.70	2.46
Emrging Mkts	98.93	103.30	-0.48	0.05
Euro Grwth Inc	139.80	148.	-0.90	
Euro Small Co	69.84	74.38	+0.53	
Japan	81.31	86.02	+2.62	
Asia Pacific	221.30	235.70	-4.59	2.56
-do- Accum	244.10	260.	-4.90	2.56
Inv Trust Acc	314.50	333.40	-7.20	1.15
Mngd Equity	232.50	246.	-3.40	2.
Mngd Cash	98.34	98.34	+0.10	7.06
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD				
0171 525 725				
Asia Pacific	11.47	12.13†	-0.24	1.31
Corp Bd Grth Inc	107.33	113.53†	-1.49	5.77
Corp Bd Grth Acc	125.06	132.27†	-1.77	5.77
European	72.58	78.78	-0.69	0.17
Japan	23.22	24.51†	+0.57	0.01
Managed Assets	165.32	174.85†	-5.32	1.77
North American	59.95	63.31	-6.77	0.02
Smlr Co's Inc	38.51	40.73	-1.50	1.77
Smlr Co's Acc	43.22	45.71	-1.69	1.77
UK Growth	78.61	83.14†	-2.92	1.35
UK Growth Acc	92.01	97.31	-3.42	1.35
Extd Income #	54.49	57.63†	-1.67	3.65
Worldwide Grth	47.45	50.18	-2.06	0.33
For TSB Unit Tsts see Lloyds TSB Unit Tsts				
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED				
0800 435810				
British	509.63	536.45†	-13.37	2.10
European	123.32	129.13	-0.15	1.33
TEMPLETON INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
0131 469 4000				
Templeton Funds (OEIC)				
Alpha Shares				
Growth Acc ‡	267.18		-6.69	5.09
Growth Inc ‡	225.18		-5.63	5.09
Balanced Acc ‡	247.74		-3.48	5.74
Balanced Inc ‡	196.94		-2.77	5.74
Value Acc ‡	167.17		-3.29	3.93
Value Inc ‡	146.32		-4.83	3.93
Beta Shares (250,000 minimum)				
Growth Acc ‡	775.72		-19.32	5.09
Growth Inc ‡	774.67		-19.30	5.09
Balanced Acc ‡	867.92		-12.13	5.74
Balanced Inc ‡	867.92		-12.13	5.74
THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 629 0882				
Capital	115.10	122.40	-5.58	0.31
International	75.63	80.37	-7.51	
THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS				
Client Serv: 0800 9683000 Inter Serv: 0800 9684000				
Threadneedle Investment Services				
Managed Funds				
Adv Mgd Gth Acc	48.79	51.08	-1.38	0.50
Bal Mgd Gth Acc	50.62	53.00	-0.87	1.67
Caut Mg Gth Acc	52.80	55.28	-0.54	3.29
Managed Income #	51.15	53.56†	-0.62	3.13
Threadneedle Investment Fund (OEIC)				
Retail Shares (Class 1)				
UK				
UK Corporate Bd ‡	55.31		-0.10	6.99
Uk Equity Inc #	53.98		-0.86	3.09
UK Growth ‡	53.73		-1.10	1.36
UK Grth & Inc ‡	49.61		-0.93	1.42
UK Money Secs ‡	51.52		+0.05	7.26
UK Monthly Inc #	49.75		-0.78	3.13
UK Select Grth ‡	52.85		-1.36	1.23
UK Smaller Cos ‡	48.10		-1.03	0.67
International				
Amer Grwth Acc ‡	49.12		-3.89	
Amer Sel Grth ‡	48.93		-3.86	
Amer Sm Cos Gth ‡	42.06		-3.39	
Asia Growth ‡	23.79		-0.34	0.91
Emg Mkt Bd Fd #	37.03		-1.33	6.47
European Growth ‡	58.80		-1.89	
Euro Sel Grth ‡	60.98		-1.19	
Euro Sm Cos Gth ‡	53.95		-0.75	
FE&Jap Grth Acc ‡	24.68		-0.12	0.45
Global Bond #	52.30		-0.19	5.14
Gbl Sel Gth Acc ‡	46.86		-1.37	
Japan Grth Acc ‡	30.63		+1.08	
Jap Sm Cos Gth ‡	49.95		+1.11	
Latin Amer Gth ‡	26.57		-0.93	8.86
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (500,000 min)				
UK				
Uk Equity Inc #	54.15		-0.85	3.10
UK Growth ‡	53.88		-1.09	1.75
UK Grth & Inc ‡	49.75		-0.92	1.87
UK Incr Grth ‡	53.25		-0.88	1.98
UK Clsss Lrgs ‡	51.16		-0.83	1.20
UK Select Grth ‡	53.04		-1.36	1.68
UK Smr Cos Grth ‡	48.25		-1.02	1.09
International				
Amer Grwth Acc ‡	49.39		-3.90	
Amer Sel Gth ‡	49.70		-3.86	
Amer Sm Cos Gth ‡	43.26		-3.39	
Asia Growth Acc ‡	23.93		-0.34	1.28
Euro Grth Acc ‡	59.09		-1.08	0.35
Euro Sel Gth Acc ‡	61.25		-1.18	0.26
Euro Sm Cos Gth ‡	60.19		-0.74	0.09
FE & Jap Gth Acc ‡	24.80		-0.11	0.81
Global Bond #	52.44		+0.20	5.65
Japan Growth Acc ‡	30.79		+1.09	
Jap Sm Cos Gth ‡	50.14		+1.12	
Latin Amer Gth ‡	26.67		-0.92	1.12
UNITED FRIENDLY UT TST MGMT LTD				
01277 690 336				
UK Eq Inc Acc #	420.58	447.43	-5.64	3.65
UK Equity Grth	440.57	468.80	-14.15	1.48
European	254.29	270.52	+0.73	0.45
Nth American	100.26	106.66	-9.56	
Far Eastern	45.20	48.09	+0.84	0.54
Money	78.38	78.38	+0.08	6.38
Fixed Interest #	96.74	102.69	-0.19	6.56
Index Linked Gilt	91.06	96.57	-0.10	1.18
VIRGIN DIRECT PFS LTD				
0345 959595				
Income Trust	117.38	117.38	-0.23	5.30
Pens Growth	122.75	127.25	-2.28	
Pers Inc Protct	122.85	122.85	-0.24	
UK Index Tracking	161.95	161.95	-2.87	2.10
WAVERLEY UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7455				
Australasian Gold	14.16	15.14†		
Pacific Basin	23.39	24.62		
Global Bond (US$)	0.9254	1.0160		
Penny Share	45.61	48.01		
Japan Smlr Cos	27.22	28.65		
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 623 2444				
Short Dtd Gilt	134.98	136.30		
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.8373	0.8465	+0.00	
Gilt Income	54.30	55.14	-0.09	5.90
Gilt Growth	96.15	98.83	-0.30	
Sterling Bond	53.82	54.78†	-0.15	5.80
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 298 4000				
Intl Mngd	66.40	70.59	-0.11	1.70
UK Stockmarket	129.80	131.78	-3.70	2.17
Corporate Bd Inc	51.26	51.38	-1.35	5.47
-do- Accum	58.29	58.42	-0.18	5.47

Source: FT Information

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return). † Ex dividend. ‡ Middle price. .. No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital. @ Exit Charge.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY S

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ASIAN PAIN 53

The huge falls in Asia could give buying opportunities

WEEKEND MONEY

A RIGHT CARRY ON 51

Comparisons are difficult with medical policies



Clare Stewart reports on the financial changes that go hand-in-hand with society's altering attitudes to tying the knot

Marriage of contractual convenience



FIROOZ ZAHEDI/SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

Actress Sharon Stone and her new husband Phil Bronstein drew up a prenuptial contract for their wedding this year

September is one of the busiest months for weddings this year, thanks to the World Cup. The chance of an important England match falling on a Saturday meant that fewer couples than normal organised their marriage for July.

This has extended the peak wedding season this year at a time when a government policy group is preparing to publish guidelines for prenuptial contracts and the division of assets in the event of divorce.

Prenuptial contracts, the stuff of Hollywood court cases and film star lifestyles, are not legally binding in England and Wales, but comments from the Lord Chancellor's Department have indicated support for their introduction. One in three of the 300,000 annual weddings in the UK now ends in divorce.

The idea is to remove some of the financial and emotional problems of divorce, in particular how assets should be divided up. Depending on the findings of the policy group and space in the legislative calendar, firm proposals could be put out later this year.

Prenuptial contracts are legally binding in a number of countries including the US and Australia. Celebrated cases involve stars and tycoons such as Donald Trump, Woody Allen and John Kennedy. Sharon Stone, who is said to be worth £60 million, had a prenuptial agreement drafted before walking up the aisle with her husband, Phil Bronstein, a newspaper editor, on Valentine's Day this year.

The issues that a contract is designed to simplify have also been highlighted by a number of court cases where a husband and wife are divorcing after 20 or 30 years, and where the wife, who may not have worked while looking after children, seeks a settlement that reflects her contribution to her husband's career.

While UK couples may draw up a prenuptial agreement at present, it may not determine what happens if the marriage breaks down.

> A prenuptial agreement can be as simple or as complicated as the couple choose

"The courts still have the power to decide, though the prenuptial agreement may be taken into account," says Nigel Shepherd, who is a family law specialist at Berrymans Lace Mawer, a national law firm.

A prenuptial agreement can be as simple or as complicated as the couple choose, but Mr Shepherd gives warning that the more complex agreements are more likely to be overturned in court. The effectiveness of any agreement also depends on the legal advice given when it is first drawn up.

"It is important that both partners take independent legal advice, which examines the rights and wrongs of the agreement," says Mr Shepherd.

An agreement also demands full disclosure of assets by each partner and there should be an agreement to end the contract if children are born. The contract will need to be reviewed over the years as circumstances change.

This can change the situation considerably if, for example, the mother's income is reduced because of child care costs. The husband may see a substantial rise in earnings, and if the couple were to divorce, splitting assets according to what each brought to the marriage might leave the wife and any children with inadequate provision.

Mr Shepherd said that most UK couples who use prenuptial contracts tend to be those entering a second marriage, and where the husband might want to provide for children from his first marriage.

The cost of drawing up such an agreement will vary according to its complexity, and the amount of time spent both with solicitors and financial advisers. On average a solicitor will charge about £200 for putting the contract together.

Frances Hughes, matrimonial lawyer and partner at Bates Wells & Braithwaite, points out that although the courts may choose to disregard contracts between spouses, those drawn up by cohabiting couples setting out who gets what are legally binding.

A TAXING TIME

One immediate impact of married life is a change in your tax status. Couples still receive personal allowances but can also claim a married couple's allowance of £1,900 in the current tax year.

Tax relief on this is given at 15 per cent now but this will drop to 10 per cent next April. This allowance can be split between couples or one can choose to receive it all.

The best use of the allowance is for it to be paid to the spouse on the largest salary, reducing their tax liability.

Contact your local tax office to notify them of the change and to claim the allowance which will be paid automatically to the husband unless otherwise directed.

Married couples do get a better deal when it comes to capital gains tax, as they can transfer assets between them to minimise capital gains liability, or put assets in the name of the partner with a lower tax band.

Wills are crucial for a newly married couple but those drawn up before the big day, unless drafted with marriage in mind, are annulled once the knot is tied.

If you can't buy love, buy insurance

The cost of getting married has doubled in the past ten years and surveys by bridal magazines reckon that the average wedding will set you back from £10,000 to £12,000.

Wedding & Home magazine estimates that the average wedding now costs £10,151, compared with £8,155 in 1993. The greatest expense is the honeymoon, which costs an average £2,275. Catering at the reception is a close second at £1,944.

In addition there is the bride's dress (£742), drinks at the reception (£814) and photography (£389). The total figure excludes money spent on any engagement celebrations and pre-wedding events such as stag nights and hen parties but includes the bride's going away outfit and her cosmetics.

The selection of venues for civil ceremonies has widened enormously following a change in the law in England and Wales and includes stately homes, museums, zoos and football clubs, allowing couples more choice in finding the right location and package.

Holding the reception at the wedding venue is one way of reducing the cost, saving on transport between the two sites, while venues such as hotels may be able to offer more competitive all-in packages.

Costs will vary depending on where you get married. London is the most expensive with Wales and East Anglia the two cheapest places to tie the knot. One increasingly popular option is to get married abroad. It may also be relatively cheap if your guests pay for themselves regarding it as a holiday.

Kuoni, the tour operator, says demand for its wedding packages has grown substantially and it has expanded its range to offer wedding options in 26 countries. With a wedding package in St Lucia the cost of the ceremony is £399 per couple, with the cost of a two-week holiday at £969 per person, all inclusive. If however you were keen to honeymoon with family and friends and booked ten or more rooms in the same hotel, the happy couple could stay free of charge.

Wedding insurance is a market that has developed in the past ten years, but for a relatively small premium couples can safeguard some of the investment in a wedding if the unexpected occurs. Typical policies on offer provide cover for cancellations and additional expenses of up to £2,500, claims for wedding attire of up to £1,000 and photographs up to £1,000. Premiums are on average about £50, but be warned: policies will not pay out if either bride or groom fails to turn up.

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Coming to the aid of innocent investors



ASSOCIATED PRESS

To the rescue: the Investors Compensation Scheme has so far handed out over £130 million to 11,500 badly advised investors

Susan Emmett on the scheme that *is the last resort in mis-selling cases*

Investors who have received bad financial advice on personal pensions could make huge demands on the Investors Compensation Scheme (ICS) over the next five years.

This is despite the production of a set of rescue measures aimed at helping independent financial advisers (IFAs) to sort out all possible cases of pensions mis-selling without going bankrupt as a result of the extra workload.

Thousands of IFAs are receiving advice from actuaries on how to assess whether personal pensions that they sold in the 1980s were unsuitable or inappropriate for their clients. Many of these clients will qualify for compensation, which could run into tens of thousands of pounds for each case.

The rescue package, administered by the Association of British Insurers, includes the promise of £100 million worth of loans financed by leading insurance companies to help IFAs through the lean times.

The Financial Services Authority, the watchdog, estimates that up to 1.8 million people could be seeking compensation once the second phase of the pensions review begins next year.

Phase two will address younger cases who were 35 or under at the time the policy was bought. The first stage, which concentrated on those at or near retirement, has compensated about 650,000 investors who were wrongly persuaded to opt out of an occupational pension in favour of a private scheme.

A spokeswoman for the FSA said: "There is still another year and a half of the pensions review. The worst is not yet over, especially for those who mis-sold to younger people."

So far, the ICS, which was set up in 1988 and is funded by the industry, has paid out £130 million to 11,500 investors. Nearly three quarters of those compensated have received under £15,000, although the maximum for each investor is £48,000. Nearly one fifth have been paid between £15,000 and £30,000.

The scheme may be famed for its involvement in the pensions review but it also covers stocks and shares, unit trusts, futures and options, some long-term insurance policies and has paid out significantly to those who have been mis-sold home income plans.

However, the ICS only steps in as a last resort and will not pay out unless an authorised firm that is guilty of unsound advice, goes out of business and cannot return the investments itself.

The FSA central register will identify whether a firm is in default and the ICS will send out compensation forms to those affected. The forms should be returned within six months.

For a firm that is still trading, investors should start off by complaining to the company itself. If that fails, the next port of call is the firm's regulator, which will usually be the Financial Services Authority (FSA), the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), or the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro).

In any case, the ICS can pay compensation only if the firm in default was authorised by the regulators. It will generally only handle claims involving a problem that started within the last six years although a case might still be considered if the bad advice or poor investment management took place after the scheme was set up on August 28, 1988.

However, the ICS will not pay out unless there was an actual financial loss. Nor is a member of the public able to claim compensation if an investment has gone sour as a result of bad market conditions or inflation.

Those who lost money on bad investments would be wasting their time unless there is proof that they were given the wrong advice. The ICS might be able to intervene for example, if an investor nearing retirement and seeking a safe source of income was persuaded to lock up his or her money in an unsuitable fund.

A spokeswoman for the ICS said: "Each case is considered on its own merits and depends on the particular circumstances of that investment."

☐ *The Investors Compensation Scheme can be contacted at: Gavrelle House, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8RA. Telephone: 0171-628 8820*

Golden age turns to lead

PERSONAL INVESTOR



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

America is having a rethink. Shares are already back where they started the year in New York as well as London, having been a fifth higher on Wall Street in between.

Once events have made nonsense of long-cherished truths, there is bound to be a period of confusion as the cogs turn, the gears clank and the great mind of the markets adjusts to changed realities. We are in that period now.

Some of us have been arguing for many moons that last year's domino collapse of Asian currencies and stock markets was bound to have profound effects in the West. In America, it seemed to be something happening far away to minor economies that did not really matter. Back home on main street, the issue was still whether the seemingly endless US boom could avoid boiling over into inflation and higher interest rates.

The bull mentality ruled. In Britain, gilt-edged have proved a better investment in shares for some time. Until recently, however, shares have still set the pace in New York.

Some fund managers did not share the herd optimism but their investments did not perform so well. Naturally, more people put their money with the bulls, perpetuating their sway. As David Hale, chief economist of the Zurich Group, points out, the Asian crisis actually helped to keep the bull market going. Funds retreated into safe currencies and Alan Greenspan, canny old head of the Federal Reserve Board, persuaded his colleagues not to lift interest rates because commodity prices were tumbling.

The penny finally dropped in America when its fellow nuclear superpower spiralled into a financial vortex. At the same moment, commodity-led recession reached the back door in Latin America.

The penny has dropped. The new golden age has turned to lead, the new paradigm doesn't fit and history, once deemed to have come to an end, has restarted with a vengeance.

What comes next is another matter. Meanwhile, what happens on Wall Street will surely set the tone in London and maybe on the Continent too. Hurricane Boris will keep blowing round the Atlantic for a bit, at least until Russia has a functioning government, and London will feel the wash.

The only sensible policy is to batten down the hatches and brew some cocoa. Any further falls in share prices may prove temporary, so there need be no rush to sell unless you have to do so within the next few months.

In America, private investors have been buying on sharp falls in the Dow-Jones average. That may be astute thinking but it could prove to be just old thinking. At this stage, bargain hunting on anything but the most selective basis looks to be thrill-chasing, not just brave. Government stock looks a safer bet if you want to make new investments soon. Returns may not be large or exciting. If prices rise much further and interest yields fall much lower, the economy will be in for trouble. But it is hard to see interest rates on ten-year bonds being much higher in a year's time.

London shares will be influenced by the autumn season of big company results, which start in earnest on Monday. But New York is likely to be the main influence. Over there, companies will not yet have suffered so much from a strong currency but prospects will surely not look so rosy. Any bad news shocks are likely to be taken to heart.

Kiichi Miyazawa, Japan's Finance Minister, is in America meeting the financial top brass. Apart from the usual platitudes about boosting Japan's economy, this may give Mr Greenspan a chance to suggest that he would cut interest rates at the first sign of any trouble on Wall Street feeding into consumer spending, which has been boosted by capital gains. A quarter point cut in October is already being talked of and would be helpful.

Growth in the US economy is in any case slowing towards 2 per cent a year. If you think that is a blip that Mr Greenspan can deal with, US shares do not look too expensive. If investors conclude that even that pace will be hard to keep up when half the world is in recession, New York shares would still have a way to fall. Now that America has woken up to what is happening elsewhere, there is a chance of doing something about it. But that looks the only good news.

New accounts still seek a foothold



Road to nowhere: Virgin enlisted the help of the writer-comedian Chris Langham to advertise its One all-purpose account

Richard Branson's crusade to change the way we bank with the launch of the Virgin One account, has failed to gain mass appeal with only 5,000 people joining since it started in October of last year.

The account, which combines a flexible mortgage with a current account, was designed to break down the "artificial barrier between saving and borrowing" and end what Virgin dubbed as the "jam pot" mentality.

While other Virgin Direct products attract a wide audience, Virgin One has found favour among well-heeled doctors and accountants, who have applied for loans of more than £400 million with an average borrowing of more than £80,000.

Nearly 60 per cent have come from the big banks with almost 20 per cent defecting from Barclays and 30 per cent from the Halifax and Abbey National. Just under 10 per cent came from the rival telephone bank First Direct.

Jayne Anne Gadhia, managing director of Virgin One, said the bank had met its targets and took more new net mortgage business than competitors such as Alliance & Leicester and Britannia last year.

However, to help the general public to digest the revolutionary formula almost a year after the product made its debut, Virgin has spent £3.5 million on a television advertising campaign.

The high-profile advertisements feature the comedian and script writer Chris Langham roaming the South African veld explaining the Virgin One account.

The advertisements are remarkably similar to another television campaign that also featured a comedian explaining a "revolutionary" financial product.

The £13 million advertising campaign, with the actor Richard E. Grant, the star of the cult film *Withnail and I*, has done little to boost the fortunes of b2, the trendy arm of Barclays.

The new company was designed to take on newcomers to financial services and emulates the customer-friendly approach of Virgin Direct, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Marks & Spencer.

Barclays would not reveal the size of deposits but a spokeswoman said the product was launched in May "which is not a traditional period to start saving".

Meanwhile, Standard Life Bank, which took the cheesy line in its advertising and a more mundane approach to its marketing, has raked in £1 billion in just eight months.

Standard Life's posters simply featured people on the telephone but they persuaded 120,000 people to deposit their cash with the banking arm of the Scottish mutual life assurer.

Standard Life pays one of the better rates in the market which might have contributed to its success as a "new" bank.

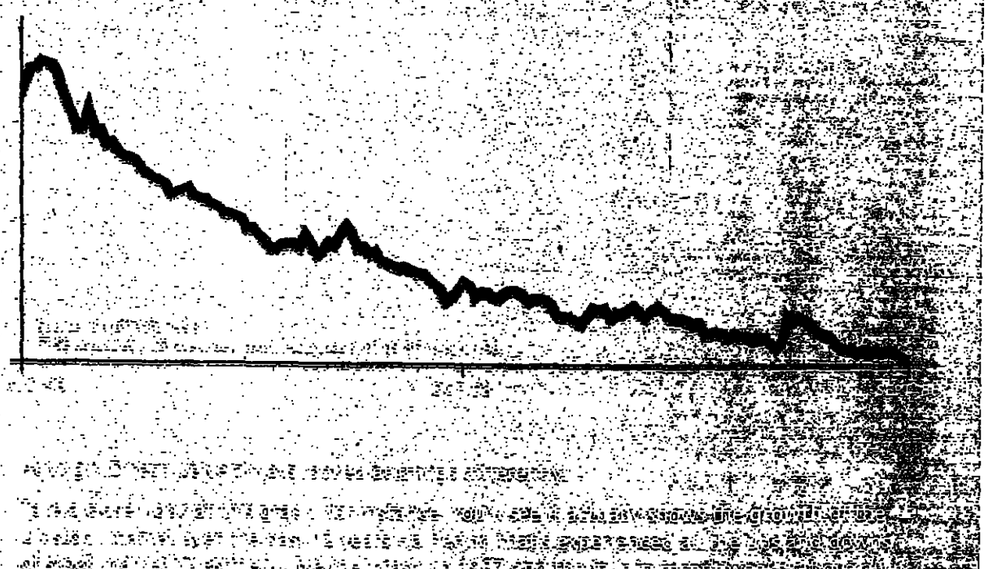
Standard Life has yet to catch up with Sainsbury's, the most popular of the new-style banks, with £1.4 billion on deposit after 18 months, but has already overtaken Tesco, which took in £800 million after 11 months, and Safeway which attracted £600 million.

Standard Life has raised its rates four times since its debut and now pays up to 7.55 per cent on deposits of more than £60,000 in its direct access account and 7.81 per cent for sums above £250,000 in its 50-day account.

The bank expects to start providing mortgages by telephone later this year.

SUSAN EMMETT

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Source: Standard & Poor's Micropal, bid to bid, net income reinvested to 1/8/98. The price of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up, you may not get back as much as you invest. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. M&G do not offer advice or make any recommendations regarding investment – we only promote the packaged products and services of the M&G marketing group. Issued by M&G Securities Limited (Regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority), Registered Address: 3 Minster Court, Crest Tower Street, London EC3R 7XH. Registered No: 90776. "The increase in the value of M&G European Smaller Companies Fund units since launch (10/96) to 1/8/98 was 82.2%.

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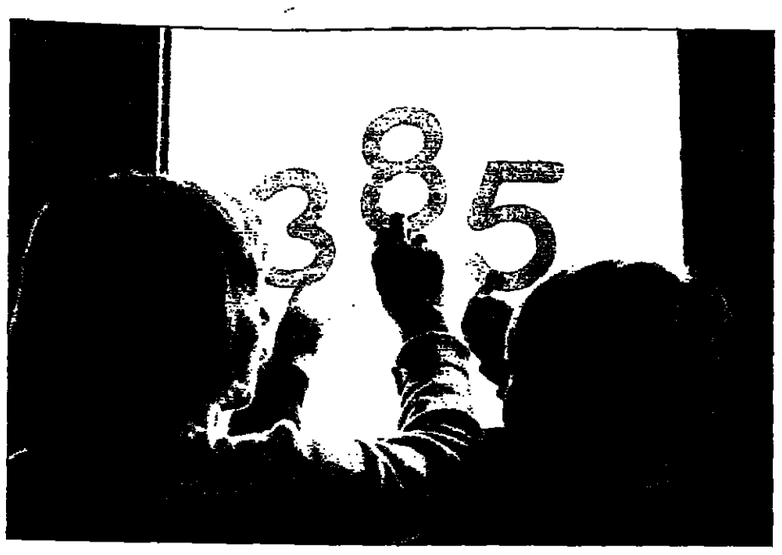
Legal & General

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When sums don't add up

Susan Emmett explains why some APRs are different from others



Borrowers will soon find it easier to assess the true cost of a loan under government proposals to reform the way the annual percentage rate(APR) is calculated.

APRs are quoted widely and are designed to illustrate the total cost of a mortgage, personal loan or credit card. Despite this, confusion has reigned since they were introduced in 1980.

APRs were brought in as a yardstick to compare borrowing. The APR is a single figure representing the annual cost of a loan when interest and all fees are taken into account.

So in theory, APRs should provide enough uniformity to allow borrowers to decide whether they are getting a good deal. The higher the APR the more the consumer pays, the lower the figure, the better the offer.

However, not only is the mathematics painstakingly complex, lenders have the choice of three different types of formulae and some lenders have been accused of manipulating the figures to make their loans more attractive.

After years of complaints from consumer groups and lenders, the Government has announced it is considering harmonising APRs with the rest of Europe and taking steps to change legislation governing its calculation.

Several court cases have led to conflicting legal opinions on the correct way to state APRs. Some lenders present their sums as though the cheap rate initially offered continues throughout the whole life of the loan.

APR enthusiasts argue this method is more accurate as there is no way of telling what future variable rates will be and that in any case, most home loans never last their full term as homeowners often remortgage to take advantage of competitive fixed and discounted-rate deals.

However, opponents of the system say APRs as they stand are misleading. Keith Tondeur of Credit Action believes most consumers do not understand percentages and that the APR should be expressed in pounds per £100 with mortgage lenders giving a clearer picture of the cost over 25 years. Mr Tondeur said: "If you are told you will pay 3.5 times what you borrow it sounds horrendous. I think that should be spelt out."

While it looks unlikely that the percentage system will be abolished, the Government has signalled it will be taking action to make sure mortgage lenders do not mislead homeowners with unrealistic rates and that the cost of borrowing is calculated across the life of the loan.

According to the Office of Fair Trading — which has received numerous complaints from consumers and contributed to the Government's consultation paper — new legislation is the way forward.

A spokesman for the Office of Fair Trading said: "The ideal solution is regulation in the not too distant future. However, consumers should not disregard APRs completely, but use them as a reflection of the cost of the loan in the first years of the initial agreement."

The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) has already pre-empted any changes in the law.

The council has stated in its code of practice that lenders should give an illustration of how the payment will change when the loan reverts to the standard variable rate.

A spokeswoman for the CML said: "The APR is pretty problematic in mortgage terms. We don't have clarity on how it is calculated. At the end of the day, it is much more sensible to base APR on the assumption that the initial rate won't last."

Confusion over APRs is not confined to home loans. The present system also fails to give the whole picture when it comes to credit cards.

Under current rules, APRs may be influenced by the credit limit on a card, with wealthy customers who qualify for higher credit limits benefiting from lower rates.

Mark Austin, marketing manager for RBS Advanta, said: "APRs are not always calculated on a comparable basis. It is often easier for consumers to compare monthly interest rates rather than APRs."

However, if borrowers are using the monthly interest rates to compare credit cards, they must take care to ask about fees and charges such as annual fees and charges for late payment or duplicate statements, particularly if they pay off their debt every month.

There are other factors which influence the cost of borrowing such as an interest-free period.

Although many cards allow borrowers to defer payment without charging interest for 56 or 59 days, companies set their timers differently.

Some start the clock the day a purchase is made. Others wait until the purchase is added to the statement — usually three or four days later.

Staggering home from the bull market



COMMENT
MARIANNE CURPHEY
Personal Finance Deputy Editor

It was great while the party lasted. Now, as the markets work through their collective hangover, investors have time to reflect on whether they were wrong to allow themselves to be carried away by the bright lights and champagne of the bull market run.

Even before the FTSE hit its peak in July, the share prices of blue-chip companies had been racing away. Investors had piled into equities during the last few weeks of the financial year as the Pep season gathered pace.

In the cold light of the morning-after, FTSE trackers are looking distinctly less attractive, having lost roughly 20 per cent of their value since April.

Virgin Direct has written to investors urging them not to crystallise losses by selling out now but to take a long-term view and wait for the market to turn. Some will heed this advice, but then rush to sell out on any evidence of a recovery because they have lost all confidence in the stock market.

Yet index-trackers are at the heart of the Government's plans for individual savings accounts (Isas) and could form the basis for many of the new-style personal pension plans.

The events of the past fortnight have highlighted the need to spread risk in an investment portfolio. Index-trackers, which offer no cushion against the vagaries of stock markets, are not the right place for first-time investors to place their money.

Trackers might be suitable for pensions, which are long-term investments which cannot be cashed in without difficulty, so long as the fund can be switched into less volatile savings vehicles just before retirement.

Funds in Isas, however, are intended to be instantly accessible without penalty and will impose no long-term discipline on savers.

A market freefall just as the first Isa was launched would frighten off investors and scupper the best-laid plans to encourage the country to save for the future.

Joint account

Bridal magazines are full of tips on how to look your best on the big day and how to transform the hapless groom from scruff to Adonis.

There is even advice on co-ordinating the mothers' outfits so that the colours do not clash and the skirt lengths are compatible.

Nowhere is there mention of how to deal with that most difficult of subjects — money, or how to broach the issue of drawing up a prenuptial contract with your betrothed. Yet Relate, the marriage guidance counsellor, reports that more couples row about money than infidelity.

These magazines are about selling a dream and they avoid raising the prospect of what might happen should the dream turn sour.

A government decision to support the introduction of prenuptial agreements would therefore help couples to decide in advance who gets what in the event of a divorce while they are still on speaking terms.

Body blow

We are all living longer and surviving illnesses which ten years ago would have killed us. This is not good news for medical insurers.

After the removal last year of tax relief on the premiums of older policyholders, insurers are trying to cut costs and negotiate packages with consultants. They are also introducing cheaper plans with more exclusions in an attempt to keep premiums down.

This, however, makes shopping around more difficult and makes the need for standardised policies even more pressing.

A Swiss miss from Scottish Life

Caroline Merrell asks the experts for their views on a new financial product

HOR MISS

The Swiss stock market, although smaller than both the German and that of France, contains some household names — Zurich, Roche, UBS and SBC to name but a few.

Scottish Life International, the offshore life insurance company, offers a bond that attempts to match up with the growth in the UK and Swiss stock markets, with no risk to capital.

The bond offers a bonus after five years from October 12, 1998, equal to 133 per cent of the growth in the UK and Swiss stock markets. The five-year investment in the FTSE 100 and SMI indices does not start until October 12. Scottish Life claims that this means that investors will not, therefore, be putting their money into a falling a market.

Scottish Life reserves the right to redeem the bond early — in these circumstances investors would receive their net investment plus a fixed capital bonus of 35 per cent net of basic rate tax, at the end of three years, or 45 per cent net of basic rate tax at the end of four years.

Scottish Life said: "The low yields on the FTSE 100 and the SMI indices and the gearing provided by the income bonus bonds should allow the bond to outperform the FTSE 100 and the Swiss SMI, if they rise over the five-year period, while providing complete capital protection if they fall.

"It is an ideal vehicle for those investors who wish to lock in previously earned investment gains, and who are in the position to realise capital gains now without paying any capital gains tax.

"The bond is a suitable investment for all basic-rate taxpayers and higher-rate taxpayers provided they are prepared to tie up their money for five years."

Investors will receive 9 per cent income each year or 2.125 per cent each quarter. At the end of the five-year term, if the average growth of the FTSE 100 and the SMI has been either 33.75 per cent (annual income) or 31.9 per cent (quarterly income) clients will receive their initial capital back.

If the indices have not, on average, grown by this amount, investors will suffer a shortfall. The worst possible scenario is that the original capital less income will be returned, that is, only 55 per cent of the original capital will be repaid. Scottish Life will review the bond at the third and fourth anniversaries and if the average growth of the indices has been 6.7 per cent each year, the company will return the capital at this point.

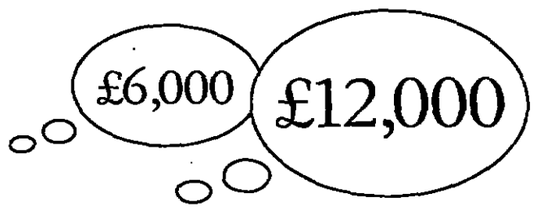
However, Towry Law, the independent financial adviser, will not be recommending the bond because it believes there are several flaws. It claims: "It does rely on the average of the two markets rising over five years by around one third. This still hides the real level of risk to which the client is exposed in the same way as the earlier bonds.

"In order to ascertain the actual level of risk an in-depth knowledge of derivatives and associated stock market trends is required. Towry Law has not been able to access the level of information available to the merchant bank providing the derivative to Scottish Life. We are, therefore, unable to form a valid view as to the risk level to communicate to our clients," the adviser claimed.

Towry Law added: "In the same way we are unable to ascertain whether the price at which the option being sold is 'value for money'. Information is only available on the Swiss Index since 1988, which is not a long enough time period to analyse the risk involved in this type of investment."

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See Teletext, page 633. Source: Prudential. Prudence Bond assuming 10% allocation, 5% initial charge. Invested on 1st May 1991 and surrendered 1st May 1998. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of units can go down as well as up. The rate of future bonuses in the With Profits Fund and therefore the rate of future growth in the unit price cannot be guaranteed. If money invested in the With Profits Fund is taken out at any time except on a death or terminal illness claim the amount may be reduced to reflect the current value of the underlying assets. This is known as the Market Value Reduction. Actual performance of Prudential Investment Bond (originally known as Prudence Savings Account) cannot be shown as it has only been available since July 1994. The performance shown is for Prudence Bond which, while it invests in the same With Profits Fund, is not the same product as the Bond. Actual experience may differ between the two products due to different charges, allocation rates and bonus rates. The figures shown are for a basic rate taxpayer. For your protection, calls on this line are recorded. "Prudential" is a trading name of The Prudential Assurance Company Limited (which is also used by other companies within the Prudential marketing group of companies). The Prudential Assurance Company Limited is registered in England and Wales. Registered office at 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH. Registered number 15454. The Prudential Assurance Company Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for investment business.

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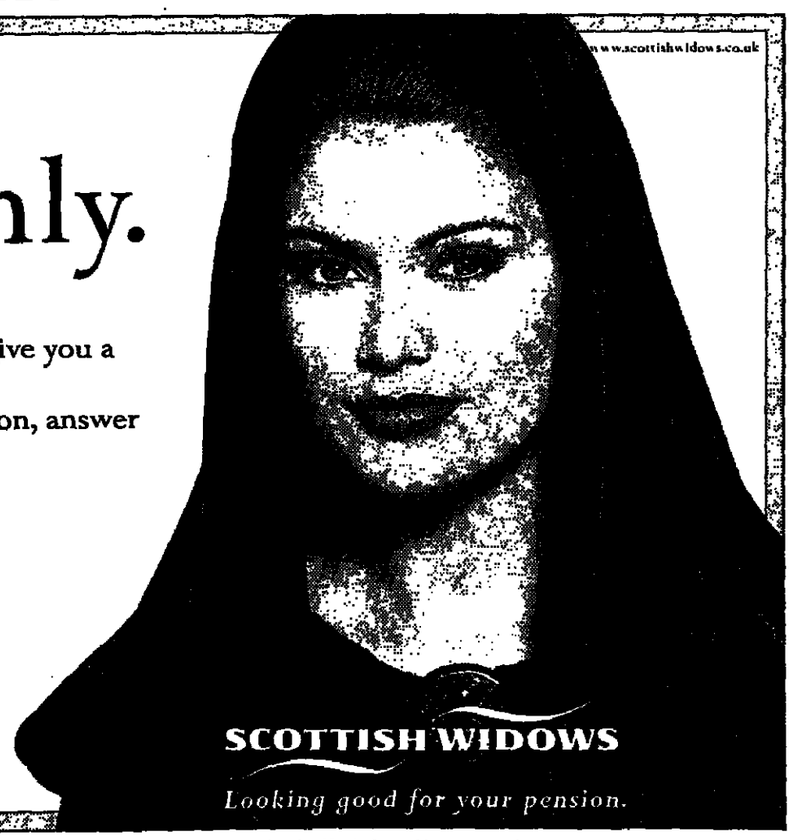
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How to take a punt with your pension

Karen Woolfson on annuities that will keep pace in your retirement



Ups and downs: those who want a pension that beats inflation may be risking a crash landing

Most people opt for a level pension when they retire or one that increases with the retail price index. The disadvantage of the first option is that its value is gradually eroded by inflation. But there are alternatives for those who want to try to beat inflation and who like to be adventurous with their money.

A with-profits annuity remains invested in the stock market and has regular bonuses added, while a unit-linked annuity is invested in a portfolio of shares, bonds and property. Unlike a with-profits annuity, which smooths the returns, unit-linked plans are more risky because they are exposed to all the ups and downs of the stock market.

Unit-linked annuities are not suitable for everyone and choosing one depends on a number of factors, including how big your pension fund is, your basic income requirements and your attitude to risk.

You may want to split the fund between a guaranteed element, which cannot go down, and a more adventurous unit-linked portion.

People in a final-salary scheme will not be affected, but those who have a personal pension or a money-purchase (defined contribution) contract with their employer will be.

The traditional fixed rate or guaranteed annuity is the most popular choice at retirement because it offers a high initial income but remains at the same level throughout your lifetime. So you will have to accept the erosion of your income in line with inflation, and that could be substantial if you live for another 30 years.

The most common alternative is to opt for a lower starting pension that increases by a prearranged rate each year, or is linked to the retail price index (RPI).

Clive Scott-Hopkins, of Towry Law Financial Services, says that you may have to start your income at around 30 per cent lower than the fixed option. Unit-linked annuities are a useful way of tackling this latter problem but come with risks attached.

Despite the incentive to lock into fixed and guaranteed annuity rates rather than risk fluctuations in the stock market, Mr Scott-Hopkins argues that over the long term a pension which is capable of increasing in value without suffering an immediate shortfall is attractive, especially where it can be used as a supplement to an existing pension.

Chris Headdon, an actuary at Equitable Life, says that with unit-linked annuities you buy units in whatever funds you choose and they will grow or diminish according to their investment performance. Equitable offers a range of 16 funds to choose from, including the UK index-tracker, North American, international growth, ethical, property, gilt and fixed-interest.

You are allowed one free switch each year and any additional switches will cost £10 each. However, if you want unit-linked exposure but are reluctant to make the investment decisions yourself then Equitable's managed fund could be the answer.

Above all, says Mr Headdon, make sure you are aware of the risks: "If you took out an annuity with a large exposure to the Asian markets a year ago then your income will have dropped substantially. But if you chose the buoyant European markets, then your income is likely to have risen."

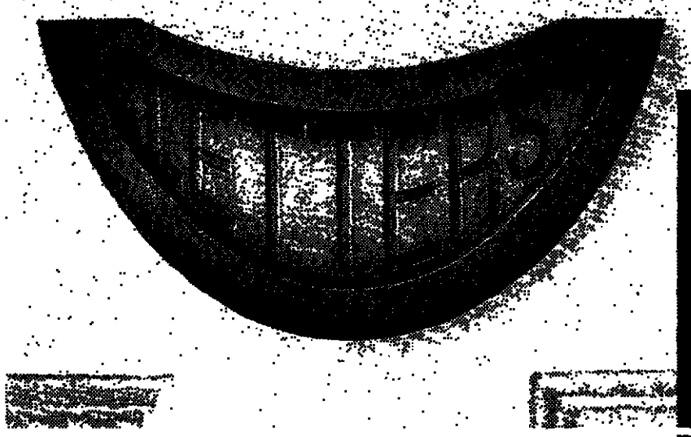
Ian Maismaith, pensions strategy manager at Scottish Widows, says: "Given that annuity rates are low, unit-linked annuities give you the prospect of future growth in your pension. If you go straight into an equity fund you are taking a risk in the short term and could lose out quite heavily if the markets fall. But over the long term your pension is likely to grow more than with other investments."

If you believe the classic argument that long-term equities (seven or more years) tend to perform better than fixed-interest instruments you could opt for a unit-linked annuity. But there is a risk there will be exceptions to the general trend.

Even if your income rises over the long term, you need to assess whether your basic living requirements can stand big short-term fluctuations in the amount you receive. If your pension gives you the basic level of income you need to live on then a unit-linked annuity is probably not a good idea. The danger is that if your unit-linked investments fall 10 per cent over one year, then your income will slide at the same time.

Mr Headdon says it may be a good strategy if your pension is big enough to provide a surplus income and your basic income needs could be sustained through the fluctuations of a unit-linked investment. People often split their pension assets between a guaranteed annuity, which provides the basic level of income required, and use the surplus to buy a unitised annuity.

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هكذا من الأهل

Pauline Springett examines the complexities of taking out a private medical insurance policy

Taking cover becomes a less comprehensive option

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What a carry on: Choosing a PMI policy is difficult for the layman when trying to work out the level of cover on offer

Rising hospital costs and the removal of tax perks on medical insurance policies are forcing insurers to introduce less comprehensive products in order to make plans affordable. Many companies are also offering the option of paying excesses, which means customers agree to pay the first slice of a claim in return for a cheaper premium.

The exact cover provided by policies differs from company to company — something to bear in mind when comparing prices. The difficulty of comparing both products and prices is one which the Office of Fair Trading drew attention to in its recent report on the industry.

The more comprehensive policies usually pay for full inpatient and outpatient care, as well as some extras such as osteopathy or dental fees. The cheapest schemes may restrict the number of hospitals at which treatment can be received, refuse outpatient cover and place an upper limit on annual payouts.

Hospital cash plans usually pay a small sum for each night spent in hospital. But it is difficult to assess the likely cost of treatment, and to choose a policy with an adequate level of cover — for example, some highly specialised outpatient scans can cost almost £1,000.

Recent reports have suggested that because the market for policies is flat, insurers will have to impose huge increases to cover their costs. Some have already begun cost-cutting reviews in an attempt to keep premiums down.

However, Penny O'Nions, a medical doctor who now works as an independent financial adviser, said she was deeply sceptical about the claims that cost cutting was being carried out efficiently.

She said: "I know of an insurer that prides itself on cutting the fees charged by consultants for theatre but which was happy to pay £25 for a can of talcum powder. How can you justify that when talc costs 60p in the supermarket?"

Laing and Buisson, the health consultant, has forecast that the private medical insurance market will remain static for the next five years. This suggests that prices will have to rise as insurers wrestle with rising claims costs but an unchanged or even shrinking pool of policyholders.

Philip Blackburn, an analyst at Laing and Buisson, said that historically, medical insurers have been able to increase prices each year by above the rate of general inflation because demand for their products has stayed steady. He said: "If people feel they need PMI and they can afford it, they will buy it, no matter how much the price increases are." The problem for insurers, he said, is that most of those willing and able to buy PMI have already done so.

Policyholders have already suffered huge increases in the past few years. Last year's decision by the Government to withdraw tax relief on PMI for the over 60s added an underlying 30 per cent to premiums.

When the impact of medical inflation was added in, some policyholders had seen their premiums rise by as much as 50 per cent.

The following tables show the cost of PMI of what we have termed comprehensive and standard or budget policies. But most companies offer more than two policies and do not use consistent labels, and price according to which hospitals can be used.

Therefore the level of cover varies from company to company, making direct comparisons dangerous — a frequent criticism of the market.

THE RISING COST OF MEDICAL COVER

Monthly cost for a couple aged 60-64

	Higher £	Lower £	
BUPA	184.77	130.08	
PPP	303.92	75.20	PPP has 5 prdcts: £62.40- 548.28)
WPA	131.54	87.04	
Legal & General	207.40	78.50	L&G has a £155.60 product
BCWA	192.96		Budget plans available
Norwich Union	313.38*	162.82*	NU also has a £224.43 policy
	145.84**	79.80**	
Prime Health	146.70	91.49	5 policies offered, to £178.65
OHRA	158.18	64.06	

Single man in his 50s

BUPA	67.06	49.66	
PPP	103.48	30.09	Also has £24.22- 218.80 range
WPA	51.90	23.87	
L&G	69.59	26.03	L&G also offers a product priced £52.69
BCWA	68.00		budget plan available
Norwich Union	132.96*	67.78*	
	60.72**	33.22**	NU offers dearer policy at £181.89
Prime Health	69.02	32.91	5 policies offered to £54.06
OHRA	56.47	26.83	

NB: *London; ** Cornwall

Quest for unrisky rewards

Getting a reward for not claiming is a normal feature of motor insurance and some companies offer a similar bonus with their household cover. A handful of insurers have applied the principle to private medical insurance (PMI) but the idea is controversial.

Bupa, for example, argues that, when it comes to matters of health, it is unwise to deter claims.

"Our members tell us that they do not want to be faced with this disincentive to claim," said John Castagno, Bupa's general manager for marketing. "If a member delays being treated in order to earn the discount, the medical condition may develop to a stage which requires more serious treatment."

David Ashdown, of the Western Provident Association (WPA), agrees that "it would be wrong to have a year-on-year NCD [no-claim discount] because you do not know when illness or accident will strike and people should seek medical attention quickly". But WPA do have a "loyalty bonus" which gives a premium-free year after five years without a claim. This bonus is transferred with subscribers if they move up or down the range of WPA policies.

"We think that people will be sensible enough not to put off necessary treatment," Mr Ashdown said.

Critics of "one free year in six" say the likelihood of not needing to claim for five years is not great. However, this is seen as a better type of NCD as it does not directly affect the premium.

So should you consider a PMI policy with a no-claim discount? If you like the idea of getting something back after paying out for years without claiming, this fringe benefit will appeal. But remember that it is a fringe benefit; the cover, and the premium, matter more.

But you may take the view that the whole point of PMI is to be able to make a claim when need arises.

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Abbey National – High Yield Bond	6.95%	6.45%	–
Nationwide – Bonus 60	7.40%	6.80%	6.50%
Woolwich – Premier 90	6.50%	5.50%	5.40%

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Staffordshire is cool for kids

A new children's account which offers a variable rate of 7 per cent gross for all tiers of savings has been launched by Staffordshire Building Society. The st@rt account can be opened with a minimum deposit of £10 by children up to the age of 18 years. The maximum balance allowed is £10,000. Four withdrawals are permitted per year and interest is paid annually. Call 0800 216121 for more details.

SAVINGS rates have been raised on Skipton Guernsey Limited's instant account with immediate effect. Guernsey Instant offers rates of interest with no tax deducted at source, penalty-free withdrawals and a choice of interest payment dates. The minimum investment is £10,000 and the maximum is £2 million. Rates are: 7 per cent on savings below £25,000. 7.25 per cent on balances of £25,000-49,999. 7.50 per cent on £50,000-£249,999 and 7.80 per cent on an investment of more than £250,000. For more information call 01481 727374.

A LIST of IFAs who offer advice on ethical investment is available free from the Ethical Investment Research Service, Eiris. The list includes details of more than 70 firms covering the whole of the UK who will be able to offer specialist help if you are interested in buying an ethical pension, Pep or other financial product. Additionally, *Money & Ethics*, a step-by-step guide to choosing an ethical investment gives a detailed analysis of 32 ethical funds and is available at a reduced price of £12 for this month. Call 0845 606 0324.

LEEDS & Holbeck Building Society has announced that its mortgage base rate will be held at 8.45 per cent until the end of the year, providing that there is no further rise in bank base rate. The building society has not raised its mortgage rate since February.

FLEMING Investment Trust Management is reducing the share exchange fee until the end of this month. The normal charge of £12.50 has been lowered to £7.50 when investors sell any UK listed retail bank shares and then reinvest the proceeds in the Fleming Pep or Share Plan. For more details, call 0500 500161.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nationwide BS 0500 302010	InvestDirect	Postal	£1	7.40	Yly
C&G 0800 742437	Instant Transfer	InstantT	£1,000	7.50	Yly
Safeway 0800 995995	Direct Savings	InstantB	£2,500	7.55	Yly
SAGA (for over 50s) 0800 514515	Postal Savings	Postal	£10,000	7.90	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Chelsea BS 0800 132351	Post-tel 40	40 day B	£5,000	7.80	Yly
Standard Life Bank 0345 555657	50 Day Notice	50 day T	£1	7.55	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	90 Direct	90 day B	£10,000	8.00	Yly
Dunfermline BS 0345 220692	Millenn.Tracker	2 year	£2,500	8.15	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Norwich & Peterborough 0800 883322		5 year	£100	8.25	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£2,500	8.20	Yly
Lambeth BS 0800 225221		5 year	£3,000	8.10	Yly
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836		5 year	£100	8.05	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 952 5252	Visa	0.57%N	6.90%N	Nil
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
Nationwide BS 0500 302011	Visa	0.68%N	8.50%N	Nil

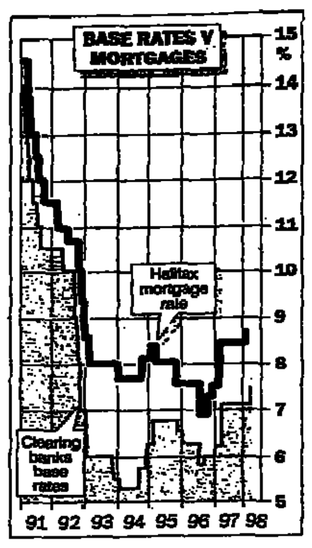
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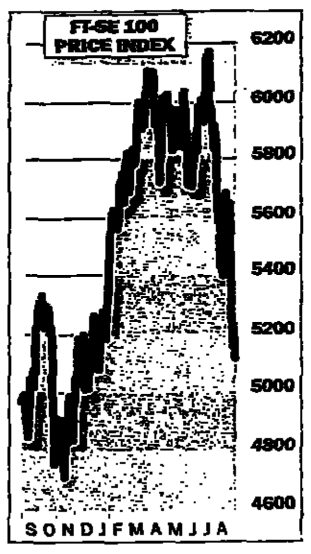
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Prudential Banking 0800 000223	12.70%	£188.75	£166.30
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.80%A	£183.75	£166.38

NB. A = Minimum age 22 years, B = Operated by post or telephone, F = Fixed Rate, H = If insurance not arranged APR 12.4 per cent, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, OM = Interest paid on maturity, P = Operated by Post, T = Operated by Telephone.

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01603 476747)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c[1]	2.00	1.60	1.20	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*‡	5.00	4.00	3.00	1-499**†	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond* ‡	7.25	5.80	4.35	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond‡	6.75	5.40	4.05	1-250k**		0645 645000
46th Issue Cert†‡	4.80			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.00			25-1,000	8day	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bond‡ ◆	6.00	4.80	3.60	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
13th Ind Linked†‡	2.25			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S5 ◆	6.10	4.88	3.66	500-50,000‡	60day	0645 645000

*1 first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 ‡ Unlimited additional hldgs for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ‡Guaranteed when held for 5 years ◆0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ *£100,000 jt in addition to S1, S2, S3 and S4 holdings ◆Taxable but cred in full ¹£500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply*

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Friends Prov ......Level	£8,265	£9,381	£10,895
Equitable Life ......Level	£8,333	£9,356	£10,757
Sun Life ......Level	£8,065	£9,222	£10,779
Legal & General...Level	£8,123	£9,170	£10,493
Canada Life ......Level	£8,046	£9,159	£10,671

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Equitable Life ......Level	£7,628	£8,375	£9,449
Friends Prov......Level	£7,495	£8,316	£9,497
Canada Life ......Level	£7,369	£8,229	£9,465
Scottish Widows ..Level	£7,460	£8,210	£9,290
Norwich Union.....Level	£7,324	£8,088	£9,312

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 / Female: Age 55	Age 65 / Age 60	Age 70 / Age 65
Equitable Life ......Level	£7,250	£7,841	£8,686
Friends Prov ......Level	£6,991	£7,597	£8,433
Canada Life ......Level	£6,888	£7,553	£8,478
Scottish Wid........Level	£6,997	£7,536	£8,263
Sun Life ......Level	£6,797	£7,460	£8,399

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 684 5000)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at September 3, 1998

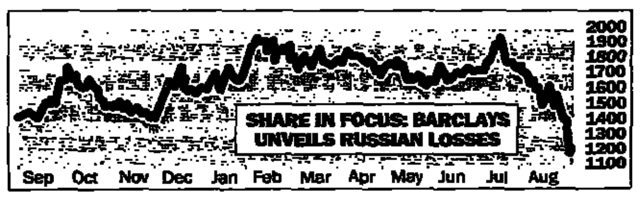
	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	3,000	Pinnacle Insur	5.80
	5,000	Pinnacle Insur	5.85
	10,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.25
2 Years			
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	5.95
3 Years			
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.00
4 Years			
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	5.90
5 Years			
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	5.80
	10,000	Pinnacle	5.85
	50,000	Pinnacle	5.93

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-493 7900. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	140.75	6.66	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	173.75	6.69	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	193.50	6.72	100.20	10,000
Britannia	13.000%	190.75	6.82	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	182.75	6.63	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	171.75	6.84	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	198.25	6.75	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	163.25	6.58	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	190.75	6.62	100.45	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	192.00	6.71	100.48	1,000
PERPETUAL SUBORDINATED BONDS					
Chelt & Gloucester	11.750%	175.00	6.71	100.98	50,000
Halifax	8.750%	128.00	6.84	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	166.00	7.23	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.630%	202.50	6.73	100.00	50,000
Bristol & West	13.380%	194.50	6.88	100.34	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	184.50	6.84	100.14	1,000

PIBS=Permanent interest-bearing shares. Source: Greenwich NatWest



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Northern Rock[1] 0845 6050500	4.59	to £250k	95	Fixed to 1.1.01 1% loan fee
Bank of Scotland 0800 121121	4.95	£25-500k	75	Fixed for 2 yrs £250 fee
Bank of Ireland 0800 109010	4.99	£25-500k	75	Fixed to 1.7.00 £280 fee
Alliance & Leic 0345 108108	5.15	£20-300k	80	Fixed to 1.10.00 0.5% fee, £300 max
Halifax plc 01422 333333	5.25	No max	90	Fixed to 31.12.00 £295 fee

NB. [1] compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance.

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Mansfield 01246 202055	0.50	£25-250k	90	8% disc-6 mths, 4% disc-6 mths
Scarborough[1] 0990 133149	0.99	£25-250k	95	7.95% disc-6 mths more discs apply
Staffordshire 01902 317485	1.59	to £200k	90	Fixed to 1.12.99 £495 fee
Leeds & Holbeck[1] 08000 725726	1.65	to £180k	95	Fixed to 1.8.99 £295 fee
Paragon Mortgages[1] 0800 440099	2.95	£25-150k	70	6% disc-1 yr £375 fee

NB. [1] Compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance.

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Wesleyan Hm Lns[1] 0800 228855	5.60	to £100k	95	3.25% disc- 1 yr
Dudley 01384 231414	5.75	to £150k	95	3% disc 12 mths more discs apply
Sun Bank Ltd 01438 744500	5.75	£25-125k	95	Fixed to 1.11.00, £495 fee
Halifax 01422 333333	5.95	to £150k	95	Fixed to 31.12.00 £195 fee
Alliance & Leic[1] 0345 108108	5.99	£20-150k	95	Fixed to 1.10.00 £150 fee

NB. [1] Compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Blay's Guides Ltd (01753 880482)

Up to 8.25% BONUS FIFTY ACCOUNT
The High interest account for investments of £5,000 and over.
0800 132 351 QUOTING REF TR509
Chelsea BUILDING SOCIETY
£5,000 MINIMUM INVESTMENT. LIMITED OFFER. *CURRENTLY EQUIVALENT TO 6.00% NET PA INCLUDES AN ANNUAL BONUS OF 2.25% GROSS PA (NET 1.80% PA) GUARANTEED UNTIL JUNE 1ST 2000.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9SE 0131 339 9191				
Balanced	575.90	609.50	-6.60	...
UK Equity	799.30	845.90	-13.50	...
Property	506.40	535.90	+0.40	...
Fixed Interest	382.70	405.00	-1.40	...
Money	291.80	308.80	+0.40	...
International	455.10	481.60	-13.50	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	231.00	243.20	-1.10	...
Ethical S4	182.70	192.40	-1.50	...
International S4	222.40	234.20	-3.20	...
Protected Gth S4	136.60	143.80	-0.30	...
Asian Pacific	106.30	111.90	-2.00	...
European S4	295.50	311.10	+10.10	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	475.40	500.50	-0.30	...
Equity Ser 4	315.90	332.60	-4.70	...
Man Ser 4	870.10	915.90	-6.50	...
Conv Ser 4	383.10	403.30	+0.40	...
Money Ser 4	382.70	402.90	+0.40	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	481.60	507.00	-2.50	...
American Ser 4	838.70	882.90	-45.00	...
High Inc Ser 4	1007.90	1061.00	-2.90	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	284.50	299.50	-1.30	...
Japan Ser 4	214.80	226.20	+10.20	...
Formerly Hill Samuel Life Assurance Ltd				
Security Fund	797.10	843.50	-23.10	...
British Fund	868.80	919.40	-17.50	...
International	735.90	778.90	-18.00	...
Dollar Fund	710.90	752.30	-53.10	...
Capital Fund	678.30	717.80	-12.20	...
Income Fund	1083.90	1147.00	-33.90	...
Property Series A	606.10	641.40	...	4.40
Property Units	1015.60	1066.70	...	...
Financial Fund	1003.30	1061.70	-43.90	...
Managed Ser A	759.10	803.30	-10.50	...
Managed Units	1377.20	1449.70	-19.00	...
High Yield Fund	973.30	1030.00	-13.60	...
Money Series A	339.10	358.90	+0.30	...
Money Units	455.90	479.90	+0.30	...
Equity Fund	868.80	919.40	-14.90	...
Fixed Interest	517.30	547.50	+3.40	...
Indexed Secs	244.40	258.70	-0.60	...
European Fund	1273.00	1347.10	+6.50	...
Natural Res	206.50	218.60	+5.20	...
Far East Fund	365.10	386.40	+2.60	...
Smaller Cos	619.80	655.90	-16.40	...
Special Sits	735.20	778.00	-19.80	...
Man Currency	303.40	321.10	-1.10	...
Japanese Tech	214.20	226.70	+2.10	...
US Smaller Cos	417.70	442.10	-24.90	...
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co. Ltd				
Deposit	288.20	303.40	+0.10	...
Financial Ser 1	80.80	85.10	-4.40	...
Fixed Interest	433.20	456.00	-1.40	...
Gold	49.60	52.30	+2.50	...
Managed	829.10	872.80	-13.70	...
Mngd Growth	262.80	276.70	-4.20	...
Property	403.90	425.20	...	...
Residential Prop	127.90	134.70	...	...
TSB American	409.20	430.80	-26.70	...
TSB Brit Gwth	1337.10	1407.50	-36.20	...
TSB European	454.90	478.90	-1.50	...
TSB Income	624.70	657.60	-15.20	...
TSB Intl	555.10	584.40	-16.20	...
TSB Pacific	263.20	277.10	+5.40	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	439.10	462.30	+0.40	...
Equity Acc	1937.60	2039.60	-38.20	...
Property Acc	826.30	869.80	+1.60	...
Far East Acc	185.00	194.80	-2.90	...
Managed Capital	682.20	718.20	-11.10	...
-do- Acc	1507.40	1586.80	-22.00	...
Overseas Acc	1431.10	1506.50	-24.50	...
Gilt Edged Acc	683.60	719.60	-4.20	...
Amer Equity Acc	1346.60	1417.50	-42.30	...
Amer Man Acc	557.40	586.80	-37.90	...
Amer Prop Acc	119.70	126.00	-3.50	...
Distribution Bonds	28.30	29.80	-0.20	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	199.50	210.00	-0.50	...
Balncd Ser 6	967.10	1018.00	-16.00	...
Opportunity Ser 6	227.00	239.00	-6.10	...
Distribution Ser 6	115.00	121.10	-0.90	6.09
UK Equities Ser 6	1492.30	1570.90	-35.80	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1644.30	1730.90	-33.70	...
North Amer Ser 6	686.20	722.40	-38.90	...
Far East Ser 6	349.30	367.70	+5.60	...
Europe Ser 6	642.50	676.40	-8.00	...
Inlnt Ser 6	693.00	729.50	-18.20	...
Property Ser 6	661.50	696.40	-1.30	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	571.80	601.90	-2.30	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	244.50	257.40	-0.60	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	348.70	367.10	+0.90	...
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1298.30	1366.70	-10.40	...
-do- Initial	752.00	791.60	-6.00	...
Gilt Edged Acc	541.70	570.30	-1.00	...
-do- Initial	316.50	333.20	-0.60	...
International Acc	464.10	488.60	-1.80	...
-do- Initial	269.50	283.70	-1.00	...
Managed Acc	718.40	756.20	-3.80	...
-do- Initial	418.50	440.60	-2.20	...
Money Acc	339.90	357.80	+0.30	...
Property Acc	368.20	387.60	+0.30	...
-do- Initial	215.00	226.40	...	...
America Acc	486.10	511.60	-33.10	...
Far East Gwth	110.50	116.40	-4.00	...
Financial Acc	600.30	631.90	-5.80	...
Sml Accum	545.40	574.20	-4.80	...
Japan Acc	153.10	161.20	+8.70	...
Income Acc	760.80	800.90	-2.90	...
Special Sits Acc	402.20	423.40	-3.60	...
Univ Tech Acc	198.00	208.50	-0.70	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
For Black Horse Life see Lloyds TSB Life				
BRITANNIA 50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR 0141 248 2000				
Measured Perf	230.50	244.00	-1.80	...
Performance Plus	261.60	276.80	-2.80	...
With Profit Perf	208.20	220.30	+0.20	...
UK Opportunity	309.10	327.00	-4.00	...
Euro Opportunity	365.90	387.10	+9.10	...
North Amer Opp	312.40	330.60	-18.20	...
Far East Opp	138.60	146.50	-0.60	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	197.10	207.40	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	261.20	276.30	+2.80	...
Fixed Int	277.70	293.80	-0.70	...
Cash	185.00	195.70	+0.20	...
Overseas	301.50	319.10	-3.20	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	482.90	508.40	-3.80	...
UK Equity	935.10	984.40	-11.80	...
Property	360.50	379.50	+3.90	...
Money Market	293.10	308.60	+0.20	...
Fixed Interest	403.40	424.70	-1.00	...
Japan	240.40	253.10	+6.40	...
North America	278.00	292.70	-16.10	...
International	465.90	490.50	-4.90	...
European	467.90	492.60	+11.60	...
Far East	102.60	108.00	-0.40	...
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Managed	443.30	466.70	-16.30	...
Property	328.60	345.90	+0.30	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	321.80	338.80	+0.20	...
Equity	550.10	579.10	-25.60	...
Cash	249.30	262.50	+0.20	...
CLife Euro Mgd	567.70	597.60	-11.80	...
CLife Intl Fd	357.40	376.30	-17.00	...
Managed Fund	946.60	996.40	-34.70	...
Property Fund	662.20	697.10	+0.60	...
Equity Fund	1357.50	1428.90	-63.30	...
Gilt Edged Fd	830.20	873.90	+0.40	...
Deposit Fund	384.80	405.00	+0.40	...
Investment Fd	615.80	646.60	-29.40	...
International	568.90	598.80	-27.00	...
Formerly Albany Life				
UK Equity	2129.20	2241.20	-89.10	...
Merc European	641.70	675.40	-7.10	...
Merc Fxd Int	682.00	717.80	+2.10	...
Grd Money	389.30	409.80	+0.50	...
Mercury Intl Mgd	733.00	771.50	-46.00	...
Merc Int Fxd Int	408.20	429.70	+4.90	...
Mercury Japan	171.50	180.50	+2.30	...
Merc Nth Amer	518.70	545.90	-52.90	...
UK Property	545.60	574.20	+0.50	...
Merc Multip Inv	1324.80	1394.50	-45.50	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU 01908 606101				
Property Fund	237.80	250.40	...	...
Managed Fund	866.30	911.90	-25.50	...
Equity Fund	541.90	570.50	-22.00	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	391.70	412.40	-4.90	...
Ruby	206.50	217.40	-2.10	...
Emerald	188.40	198.40	-0.10	...
Equity	485.60	511.20	-3.60	...
Property	273.70	288.20	-0.20	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	280.90	295.70	-0.20	...
Indexed Secs	227.00	239.00	-0.60	...
Cash	218.50	230.00	+0.20	...
Nth American	391.50	412.30	-34.70	...
Far East	214.60	226.00	+4.50	...
International	290.90	306.30	-7.50	...
Special Sits	521.40	548.90	-6.40	...
Intl Income	467.30	492.00	-6.10	...
European	571.80	602.00	-3.80	...
Japanese	88.10	92.80	+2.00	...
SE Asia	237.40	249.90	-7.00	...
With Profits Reg	207.00	217.90	+0.20	...
-do- Spec	207.00	217.90	+0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	461.60	485.90	-8.50	...
Equity	613.40	645.70	-11.10	...
Property	267.20	281.30	+0.40	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	377.50	397.40	-1.10	...
Index Linked	249.90	263.10	-0.70	...
Cash	306.00	322.20	+0.40	...
Nth American	504.00	530.60	-61.40	...
Far East Acc	206.60	217.50	+2.40	...
International Acc	361.90	381.00	-13.00	...
Special Sits	769.00	809.50	-15.50	...
European Flex	816.90	859.90	-11.30	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY 01634 890 000				
(Unlist) Key 1	276.57	...	...	...
-do- Pacemaker 1	441.54	...	...	...
-do- Cash	233.23	245.51	+0.21	...
-do- Equity	762.36	802.49	-54.87	...
-do- Fxd Int	479.53	504.77	+1.60	...
-do- Managed	533.52	561.60	-34.55	...
-do- Property	397.46	418.38	-29.27	...
(Pens)- Cash Cap	224.17	235.98	+0.29	...
-do- Cash Inv	374.25	393.95	+1.10	...
-do- Equity Cap	1905.83	2006.14	-146.41	...
-do- Equity Inv	3181.68	3349.15	-239.59	...
-do- Fixed Cap	514.02	541.09	+2.83	...
-do- Fixed Inv	858.14	903.31	+5.92	...
-do- Index Cap	252.66	265.97	+2.16	...
-do- Index Inv	421.81	444.02	+4.20	...
-do- Mngd Cap	752.45	792.06	-54.98	...
-do- Mngd Inv	1256.16	1322.30	-89.90	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5) 1	1169.26	...	-32.21	...
Var Ann (5) 1	126.66	...	-3.33	...
Prime: Managed	551.30	580.40	-5.30	...
Prime: UK Equity	740.00	779.00	-10.10	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Prime: Intl Equity	350.20	368.70	-2.20	...
Prime: Property	294.50	310.10	+0.50	...
Prime: Fxd Int	305.30	321.40	-0.80	...
Prime: Index-Lnk	225.70	237.60	-0.30	...
Prime: Cash	239.40	252.00	+0.20	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744849				
Managed Fund	1540.10	1621.10	-2.60	...
Equity II	2399.60	2525.80	+16.90	...
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham GL53 7LQ 01242 221311				
Life Funds				
Ut With Pfts (5&6) 1	125.00	...	+0.20	...
Secure (2) 1	117.20	...	+0.10	...
Managed (3) 1	133.80	...	-1.50	...
Equity Mngd (3) 1	131.20	...	-2.00	...
Adventurous (3) 1	119.70	...	-2.80	...
Bristol & West (2) 1	120.00	...	+0.20	...
Equity Mgd S1	314.80	331.40	-5.10	...
Managed S1	319.20	336.10	-3.80	...
Adventurous S1	343.20	256.00	-6.10	...
Managed (2)	218.00	229.50	-2.60	...
Eagle/Mid Uts	422.00	437.40	-6.10	0.01
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) 1	127.10	...	+0.20	...
Secure (2) 1	119.60	...	+0.20	...
Managed (2) 1	134.20	...	-1.90	...
Equity Mngd (2) 1	133.00	...	-2.50	...
Adventurous (2) 1	118.40	...	-3.40	...
Bristol & West (2) 1	122.90	...	+0.20	...
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	439.00	462.10	-3.40	2.00
UK Equity	615.50	647.80	-7.50	5.00
Stewardship	499.70	526.00	-1.80	1.00
Overseas Equity	398.00	418.90	-3.20	6.00
North American	243.60	256.40	-20.10	7.00
Pacific Basin	110.50	116.30	+1.70	1.00
European	449.70	473.30	+11.60	2.00
Property	225.10	236.90	+2.70	...
Fixed Interest	320.60	337.40	-0.70	4.00
Index Linked	226.40	238.30	-0.70	...
Cash	236.00	248.40	+0.20	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	712.00	749.40	-1.80	...
Managed	977.30	1028.70	-5.50	4.00
Deposit	404.70	426.00	-0.60	...
Property	631.00	664.20	+7.10	7.00
American	701.50	738.40	-46.40	5.00
Australian	581.60	612.20	-26.70	9.00
European	1076.50	1133.10	+30.60	8.00
Income Acc	1150.80	1211.30	-0.90	2.00
-do- Dist	604.80	636.60	-0.30	6.00
International	416.30	438.20	-1.90	7.00
Japan Smaller	220.10	231.60	+4.90	4.00
Singapore & Mal	191.00	201.00	-8.50	9.00
Tokyo Fund	485.40	510.90	-19.50	1.00
UK Equity	869.80	915.50	-2.30	5.00
CCM Varied Mg	1018.00	1071.50	-8.60	5.00
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS, 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	180.40	189.90	-3.10	...
GT Plan Wwide	561.30	590.80	-0.10	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW, 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	824.00	824.00	+2.50	...
-do- Inv A	824.00	867.30	+2.70	...
UK Equity	565.00	594.70	+2.30	...
Gilt Plus	259.20	272.80	-0.50	...
Managed	379.10	399.00	+1.30	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR 01904 628982				
Managed	286.60	301.60	-2.60	...
Unitised Profit	177.80	187.20	+0.30	...
UK Equity	442.30	465.50	-5.50	...
Fixed Int	257.50	271.00	-0.40	...
Index-Linked	218.90	230.30	-0.40	...
Cash Deposit	202.70	213.30	+0.20	...
Property	223.10	234.80	+1.40	...
International	216.10	227.40	-2.20	...
American	282.50	297.30	-17.30	...
Japan	148.40	156.10	+6.50	...
Japan Smllr Cos	152.00	159.90	+6.60	...
European	302.30	318.10	+3.40	...
Pacific Fund	140.40	147.70	-0.20	...
Conv Life	179.50	188.90	-2.40	...
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	655.30	689.80	-6.00	...
Managed Initial	391.20	411.80	-3.80	...
Equity Ord	1119.70	1178.60	-14.00	...
Equity Init	668.40	703.60	-8.70	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	267.10	281.20	-0.40	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	166.50	175.30	-0.40	...
Oseas Equity Ord	448.20	471.80	-3.80	...
Oseas Equity Init	267.50	281.60	-2.40	...
Property Ord	347.10	365.40	-2.20	...
Property Init	207.20	218.10	-1.20	...
Fixed Int Ord	377.00	396.80	-0.70	...
Fixed Int Init	225.00	236.80	-0.60	...
Deposit Ord	242.10	254.80	+0.30	...
Deposit Initial	144.50	152.10		
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	1046.70	1090.40	...	
Managed Initial	593.40	625.20	-2.90	...
-do- Acc	910.00	957.90	-4.40	...
Equity Initial	987.10	1039.00	-1.10	...
-do- Acc	1512.40	1592.00	-1.70	...
Fixed Int Initial	559.30	588.80	-3.70	...
-do- Acc	857.00	902.20	-4.20	...
Intl Initial	510.40	537.30	-5.70	...
-do- Acc	782.10	823.30	-8.70	...
Nth Amer Initial	292.50	307.90	-22.20	...
-do- Acc	407.80	429.30	-30.90	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Pacific Initial	116.70	122.80	+4.00	...
-do- Acc	161.10	169.60	+5.50	...
Property Initial	213.90	225.10	...	...
-do- Acc	327.70	344.90	...	...
Index-Lnkd Initl	201.50	212.20	-0.40	...
-do- Acc	281.00	295.80	-0.70	...
Deposit Initial	216.50	227.90	+0.20	...
-do- Acc	331.70	349.20	+0.30	...
Euro Initial	167.70	176.50	+3.90	...
-do- Acc	216.10	227.50	+5.10	...
HALIFAX LIFE LTD PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	35.66	37.54	-0.54	...
Balanced	34.89	36.73	-0.56	...
Opportunity	35.04	36.88	-0.81	...
Deposit	27.67	29.13	+0.04	...
Pension Funds				
Foundation S2	28.13	29.61	-0.77	...
Balanced S2	27.89	29.36	-0.66	...
Opportunity S2	26.59	27.99	-1.05	...
Deposit S2	26.35	27.74	+0.05	...
HAMBRO ASSURED Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR 01772 840000				
Managed	229.00	241.00	-6.60	...
-do- Pens	296.90	312.50	-11.00	...
UK Equity	263.30	277.10	-10.60	...
-do- Pens	324.70	341.70	-16.30	...
International	175.70	184.90	-5.20	...
-do- Pens	194.30	204.50	-6.80	...
Deposit	163.00	171.50	+0.20	...
-do- Pens	202.30	212.90	+0.30	...
For Hill Samuel see Abbey Life Assurance				
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF 01727 48181				
Global Managed	770.50	811.10	-40.80	...
Global Property	370.70	390.20	+1.00	...
Global Fixed Int	706.50	741.70	+5.00	...
Global Equity	829.00	872.60	-53.60	...
Global Cash	250.10	263.30	+0.30	...
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Inh	134.80	141.90	...	...
-do- Acc	209.20	220.20	+0.20	...
Brit Opps Int	195.40	205.70	-4.50	...
-do- Acc	271.50	285.80	-5.40	...
Cash Initial	175.10	184.40	-0.40	...
-do- Acc	337.40	355.20	+0.10	...
Equity Initial	911.70	959.70	-19.40	...
-do- Acc	1756.60	1849.10	-32.50	...
Fixed Initial	418.10	440.20	-2.50	...
-do- Acc	805.50	847.90	-2.80	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	164.20	172.90	-0.80	...
-do- Acc	270.00	284.30	-0.60	...
Intl Initial	331.10	348.60	-5.20	...
-do- Acc	628.10	661.20	-8.30	...
Managed Initial	585.60	616.50	-9.10	...
-do- Acc	1128.20	1187.60	-14.90	...
Property Initial	249.70	262.90	-0.50	...
-do- Acc	481.10	506.50	+0.20	...
LINCOLN The Quays, 101-105 Oxford Road, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 1LZ 01895 208 200				
Equity Units	£199.80	...	-316.90	...
Property Units	3425.00	3605.20	+1.20	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	8720.10	9178.90	-84.40	...
2nd Equity Acc	938.50	988.10	-15.70	...
2nd High Inc Ac	905.70	953.30	-14.10	...
2nd Property Acc	306.20	322.20	+0.10	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	219.50	231.00	-1.10	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	603.10	634.70	-5.80	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	264.60	278.50	-0.20	...
2nd Deposit Acc	330.60	347.90	+0.50	...
2nd Gilt Acc	402.60	423.10	-0.80	...
2nd Amer Acc	1002.40	1055.00	-69.00	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	256.90	270.30	+2.30	...
2nd Index Acc	267.20	281.10	-0.30	...
2nd Far East Acc	167.00	175.60	+0.30	...
2nd Global Acc	179.90	189.30	-1.20	...
2nd Euro Acc	255.60	268.90	+5.50	...
2nd Japan Acc	99.60	104.90	+4.50	...
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	183.30	192.80	+1.60	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	177.80	187.10	+4.40	...
ex-Laurentian				
Property	652.20	686.40	+0.20	...
Managed	542.10	570.50	-5.30	...
American	596.70	628.00	-41.00	...
UK Equity Fd	681.70	717.40	-11.40	...
Japan	109.70	115.40	+4.90	...
Index-Lkd	239.30	251.80	-0.20	...
High Yield	1258.50	1324.70	-19.70	...
Money	469.70	494.30	+0.70	...
International	404.40	425.60	-2.60	...
Perpetual Active	376.70	396.50	-16.10	...
Growth Acc	847.60	892.10	-8.20	...
Gilt Edged	572.50	602.20	-1.20	...
European	233.30	245.30	+5.00	...
Far East	88.30	92.90	+0.20	...
LLOYDS TSB LIFE Mountbatten Hse, Chatham, Kent 01634 834000				
Life Funds-Series Two-Current Series				
Balanced	974.59	1025.89	-42.46	...
Cash	330.12	347.50	+0.34	...
Contl Euro Gth	223.29	235.05	-2.95	...
Extra Income	1016.84	1070.15	-34.12	...
Fixed Interest	453.54	477.42	+1.43	...
German Growth	372.01	391.59	+9.93	...
Income	1118.25	1177.11	-46.80	...
Japan Growth	118.46	124.70	-0.08	...
Managed Inv	653.71	688.12	-21.79	...
N Amer & Genrl	607.91	639.91	-66.17	...
Nth Amer Recov	314.33	330.89	-22.71	...
Pacific Basin	184.71	194.44	-7.85	...
Property	475.41	500.44	+1.05	...
Smllr Cos Recov	994.36	1046.70	-65.41	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
The UK Gth Fd	315.87	332.50	-14.09	...
Worldwide Gth	635.99	669.47	-35.09	...
Life Funds-Series One				
Income	1138.57	1198.50	-47.56	...
Managed Inv	667.09	702.20	-22.20	...
Life Funds				
Managed	1111.44	1111.44	-35.06	...
Pension Funds				
Cash Pen	221.96	233.65	+0.28	...
European Pen	380.37	400.39	-6.03	...
Far East Pen	71.76	75.54	-2.98	...
Fixed Int Pen	265.62	279.62	+0.88	...
FTSE 100	147.79	155.57	-6.57	...
Managed Pen	313.56	330.07	-12.57	...
Nth Amer Pen	319.80	336.64	-41.13	...
Property Pen	291.75	307.11	+0.66	...
UK Equity Pen	295.22	310.76	-15.48	...
LONDON LIFE Spectrum, Bond Street, Bristol, BS1 3AL 0117 984 7777				
Equity 1	1336.80	...	-13.30	...
Fixed Interest 1	598.70	...	-1.20	...
Property 1	515.30	...	+0.90	...
Deposit 1	348.00	...	+0.30	...
Mixed 1	808.50	...	-6.40	...
Indexed Stock 1	304.30	...	-0.40	...
International 1	323.00	...	-3.00	...
Equity A 1	308.50	...	-3.00	...
Fixed Int A 1	264.20	...	-0.50	...
Property A 1	225.30	...	+0.40	...
Deposit A 1	203.50	...	+0.20	...
Mixed A 1	264.30	...	-3.10	...
Index Stock A 1	237.00	...	-0.30	...
International A 1	200.70	...	-1.90	...
Equity P 1	1179.90	...	-17.80	...
Fixed Int P 1	833.60	...	-1.60	...
Property P 1	388.40	...	+0.60	...
Deposit P 1	422.50	...	+0.40	...
Mixed P 1	774.40	...	-8.40	...
Index Stock P 1	351.40	...	-0.50	...
International P 1	389.00	...	-4.60	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS 01392 283456				
Inv Trust Cap 1	585.60	...	-35.47	...
-do- Acc 1	1158.90	...	-69.20	...
Property Cap 1	142.20	...	-0.10	...
-do- Acc 1	267.60	...	...	...
Fxd Interest Cap 1	225.00	...	-0.10	...
-do- Acc 1	437.30	...	+0.20	...
Equity Cap 1	406.70	...	-19.30	...
-do- Acc 1	789.30	...	-36.70	...
Internatl Cap 1	237.30	...	-9.50	...
-do- Acc 1	453.90	...	-17.70	...
Gtd Deposit Cap 1	158.90	...	...	...
-do- Acc 1	299.70	...	+0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap 1	402.30	...	-14.20	...
-do- Acc 1	775.80	...	-26.70	...
Moneymaker Fd 1	589.40	...	-17.60	...
Capital Growth 1	2577.10	...	-116.40	...
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	610.80	641.50	-34.80	...
Amer Rec Bond	606.80	637.30	-24.70	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	243.50	255.80	-9.40	...
Australasia Bd	249.80	262.40	-10.90	...
Commodity Bond	269.60	283.20	+16.30	...
Deposit Bond Acc	422.00	443.20	+0.40	...
Equity Bond Acc	1958.40	2056.50	-49.20	...
European Bd Acc	655.90	688.70	-14.80	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	1079.50	1133.50	-32.40	...
Gilt Bond Acc	601.70	631.90	-2.20	...
Gold Bond Acc	103.60	108.80	+12.00	...
High Yield Bond	430.20	451.80	-3.90	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	273.30	287.10	-0.80	...
International Bd	850.80	893.40	-19.40	...
Japan Bond Acc	138.40	145.50	+4.80	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	160.50	168.60	+4.30	...
Managed Bonds	1144.90	1202.20	-1.30	...
Prop Bond Acc	498.40	512.90	+2.70	...
Rec Bond Acc	1030.20	1081.80	-23.10	...
S 1.St Asia Bd Acc	174.00	192.80	-0.20	...
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY 01903 204631				
UK Equity	307.00	323.20	-3.00	...
UK Equity Acc	493.80	519.80	-4.40	...
Special Sits	129.60	136.50	-1.50	...
Special Sits Acc	208.60	219.60	-2.30	...
North American	259.80	273.50	-13.50	...
N American Acc	417.90	439.90	-21.40	...
Pacific Basin	203.00	213.70	+1.70	...
Pacific Basin Acc	326.60	343.80	+2.90	...
Fixed Interest	336.90	354.70	-0.80	...
Fixed Interest Acc	542.60	571.20	-1.10	...
Property	205.70	216.60	+0.50	...
Property Acc	331.30	348.80	-1.70	...
Deposit	158.60	167.00	...	...
Deposit Acc	255.50	269.00	+0.30	...
Managed	321.60	338.60	-2.10	...
Managed Acc	476.60	501.70	-2.80	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9266 366				
Property	502.60	529.00	-12.00	...
UK Equity	550.30	579.20	-17.10	...
Gilt Edged	825.70	869.10	-11.40	...
Interest Fund	469.60	494.30	+0.50	...
Managed Fd	602.50	634.20	-19.30	...
Intl Equity	678.90	714.60	-16.10	...
North American	326.80	344.00	-19.70	...
Far East	265.30	279.20	-1.30	...
Intl Currency	287.90	303.00	-0.70	...
NPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	650.60	684.80	-5.80	...
UK Equity	957.30	1007.60	-18.60	...
Overseas Equity	526.30	553.90	-4.70	...
Americas	589.50	620.50	-25.10	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Far East	312.40	328.80	+5.50	...
Property	258.50	272.10	+0.50	...
Fixed Interest	524.50	552.10	-1.40	...
Indexed Gilt	314.30	330.80	-0.50	...
Deposit	255.30	268.70	+0.30	...
NAT WEST LIFE ASSCE LTD PO Box 886, Trinity Quay, Bristol BS99 5LJ 0117 940 4040				
Growth Mgd Pens	181.50	190.90	-2.70	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	2023.30	2129.80	-50.50	...
Equity Fund	4756.30	5006.60	-151.10	...
Property Fd	779.10	820.10	+2.10	...
Fixed Int Fd	827.60	871.20	-4.10	...
Deposit Fund	415.50	437.40	+0.50	...
Intl Fund	310.90	327.30	-7.60	...
OLD MUTUAL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	424.80	448.10	-10.30	...
Fxd Interest Acc	329.50	347.50	-0.50	...
International Acc	309.20	326.10	-12.00	...
Managed Acc	292.20	308.20	-3.60	...
Property Acc	239.30	252.40	...	...
Money Acc	179.10	188.90	+0.20	...
Spec Mkt Acc	237.70	250.70	-1.50	...
Japan Equity Acc	64.10	67.60	+2.20	...
N Amer Acc	264.40	278.80	-22.60	...
Pacific Acc	74.80	78.80	+0.40	...
European Acc	284.10	299.60	-1.80	...
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	156.50	164.80	+1.10	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	404.60	425.90	+3.00	...
Inv Equity	1882.80	1981.90	-17.00	...
Inv Managed	1214.20	1278.20	-4.20	...
Ret Managed	1423.50	1498.50	-3.80	...
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 01189 578334				
Managed	470.50	490.20	-34.20	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS 55 King's Road, Reading RG1 3AH 0345 601 601				
Managed Fund	1064.60	1120.70	-12.60	...
Equity Fund	2414.40	2541.50	-50.60	...
Intl Fund	739.30	778.30	-6.20	...
Fixed Interest	746.50	785.80	-1.30	...
Property Fund	585.20	616.00	+2.70	...
Cash Fund	425.80	448.30	+0.50	...
Pacific Basin	230.00	242.20	+4.60	...
N American Fd	435.00	457.90	-20.60	...
Euro Fund	501.40	527.80	+0.30	...
Balanced Fund	208.90	219.90	-2.50	...
Strategic Fund	234.90	247.30	-4.20	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45) 1	1119.20	...	...	...
-do- Acc	579.42	609.91	...	...
Op Prop	565.60	595.40	-0.10	...
Op Equity	1462.60	1539.60	-68.50	...
Op High Yield	815.90	858.80	-1.30	...
Op Managed	1074.50	1131.00	-38.30	...
Op Deposit	438.80	462.90	+0.40	...
Japan Smlr	112.00	117.90	-3.50	...
Managed Gth	356.10	374.80	-10.50	...
British	517.40	544.60	-36.00	...
Global Bond	127.90	134.60	...	...
Gold Share	40.20	42.30	-3.80	...
Japan	221.60	233.30	-6.90	...
UK Smlr Cos	583.40	614.10	-54.30	...
Mngd Growth	606.10	638.00	-33.70	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3000				
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	524.20	551.70	-17.90	...
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	102.90	108.90	-1.50	1.90
Deposit Fund (2)	447.10	472.60	-0.30	7.31
Gilt Fund	709.10	749.00	-0.80	6.26
Global Equity Fd	262.00	277.30	-8.00	...
Property Fund (4q)	142.30	150.60	+0.20	6.35
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	876.00	922.20	-30.80	...
Fixed Interest	485.80	511.40	+1.10	...
Index-Linked	258.40	272.00	-0.40	...
International	501.90	528.40	-21.10	...
Property	375.60	395.40	...	...
Cash	265.70	279.70	+0.20	...
Managed	606.10	638.00	-18.80	...
Cap Gteed Bd	185.60	195.30	-7.70	...
99% Safeguard	108.50	...	-2.20	...
100% Safeguard	104.90	...	-0.30	...
Wealth Pres Cap 1	113.80	...	-1.60	...
Wealth Pres Inc 1	4.50	...	-145.60	...
Bonus Bond	102.40	...	-4.00	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	212.60	223.80	+0.19	...
Index-Linked	220.70	232.40	-0.80	...
Fixed Interest	248.20	261.30	-2.00	...
Mixed	353.40	372.10	-7.70	...
UK Equity	352.20	370.70	-10.20	...
International	332.70	350.20	-5.20	...
American	485.40	510.90	-27.00	...
Japan	155.40	163.60	+6.70	...
European	466.60	491.10	+4.50	...
Pacific	192.00	202.10	-8.00	...
Technology	641.70	675.50	-18.90	...
Fxm Bd/Ctrcy	261.40	275.20	+1.30	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	283.30	298.30	+1.20	...
UK Equity	563.70	593.40	-20.10	...
American	403.90	425.20	-38.20	...
Pacific	224.50	236.50	+8.00	...
European	740.80	779.80	-11.30	...
Global Mgd	342.50	360.60	-7.80	...
Fixed Interest	329.20	346.60	+0.50	...
Index Linked	269.60	283.90	-0.50	...
Deposit	228.80	240.90	+0.20	...
Managed	390.50	411.00	-8.80	...
Worldwide	128.70	135.50	-3.70	...
Pen Worldwide	137.40	144.80	-4.00	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	2573.60	2653.20	...	...
Safety Fund	322.40	339.40	-1.50	...
Growth Fund	322.20	339.20	-4.70	...
Opportunity Fd	325.30	342.50	-4.40	...
Cash Fund	203.30	214.10	+0.30	...
European Fund	606.10	638.10	+8.90	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	286.50	301.60	-0.20	...
Index-Linked Fd	239.20	251.80	+0.20	...
International Fd	340.50	358.50	-4.60	...
North American	387.40	407.80	-32.80	...
Property Fund	140.90	148.40	...	...
UK Equity	371.90	391.50	-8.50	...
UK Smaller	274.00	288.50	-9.20	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	355.80	374.60	-6.00	...
Equity	394.80	415.70	-8.90	...
International	316.00	332.80	-7.40	...
Property	287.30	302.60	-0.70	...
Fixed Interest	350.70	369.20	+0.20	...
Index Linked	247.60	260.70	-0.40	...
Cash	215.80	227.20	+0.30	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	1074.50	1143.10	-47.30	...
Cash Fund	393.80	415.00	+0.30	...
Property Fund	373.00	393.10	+4.80	...
Equity Fund	1054.60	1122.00	-51.70	...
Fxd Interest Fund	673.80	710.10	+0.90	...
International	449.90	478.70	-35.90	...
High Income	998.30	1062.10	-40.30	...
Far East	338.40	360.00	-16.50	...
North American	782.10	832.10	-111.40	...
Special Sits	924.00	983.00	-62.00	...
Technology	1027.80	1093.50	-166.70	...
Extra Income Fd	562.60	598.60	-19.40	...
Gilt Fund	575.80	612.60	+0.40	...
European	242.60	258.10	-15.10	...
Adventurous Mg	244.80	258.00	-14.80	...
Cautious Mngd	207.60	218.90	-2.30	...
Equity Inc Dist	144.10	151.90	-6.90	5.27
Managed Dist	133.90	141.20	-2.60	5.49
Henderson Investment Bonds				
UK Equity Fd	441.60	470.00	-18.60	...
North America	523.70	557.20	-53.30	...
Far East Fund	350.90	373.30	-8.00	...
Global Managed	591.20	629.00	-21.40	...
Deposit Fund	265.60	279.60	+0.30	...
European Fund	456.10	485.30	-10.40	...
Fixed Interest	66.70	71.00	-0.10	...
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1372.20	1372.20	-24.40	3.36
Inv Pol 2	1235.30	1300.40	-23.40	...
Inv Pol 3	1158.50	1219.50	-22.50	...
Inv Cash	368.20	387.60	+0.90	...
Mixed Fund	619.70	652.40	-20.10	...
Equity Fund	799.10	841.30	-42.50	...
Property Fund	328.00	345.30	+0.30	...
International Fd	570.00	600.10	-16.60	...
Fixed Interest Fd	516.60	543.90	-0.40	...
Indexed Stock Fd	267.60	281.80	+0.50	...
Cash Fund	269.40	283.70	+0.40	...
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	530.60	558.50	-12.10	...
Equity Acc	725.30	763.40	-34.70	...
International Acc	396.40	417.20	-5.60	...
Property	279.30	294.00	+0.20	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2DH 0131 225 2552				
Cash	315.10	331.70	+0.30	...
Equity	1601.70	1686.00	-46.30	...
European	260.60	274.40	-1.60	0.86
Far East	118.30	124.50	-1.20	...
Fixed Interest	547.10	575.90	-1.60	...
Index Linked	285.60	300.70	-0.70	...
International	699.90	736.80	-10.40	...
Managed	984.80	1036.70	-16.80	...
Nth American	224.20	236.10	-11.00	...
Property	457.70	481.80	+0.70	...
Pensions				
Cash	515.60	543.00	+0.70	...
Equity	2517.60	2650.20	-92.00	...
European	333.80	351.40	-0.50	...
Far East	86.10	90.70	+1.40	...
Fixed Interest	819.80	863.00	-2.60	...
Index Linked	422.40	444.70	-0.90	...
International	1002.10	1054.90	-26.70	...
Managed	1465.00	1542.20	-34.40	...
Nth American	310.80	327.20	-17.20	...
Property	722.50	760.60	-1.20	...
Stock Exchange	321.20	338.20	-10.20	...
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	969.10	1020.10	-50.40	...
Equity Fund	1404.20	1478.10	-75.10	...
Fixed Interest Fd	566.20	596.00	+0.10	...
Index-Linked Fd	447.80	471.40	+0.60	...
Property Fund	615.60	648.00	+0.70	...
International Fd	813.50	856.30	-68.20	...
N American Fd	447.30	470.80	-40.60	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Far East Fund	161.20	169.70	+2.70	...
Deposit Fund	353.40	372.00	+0.30	...
Intnl Bd 1	£117.50	...	-1018.0	...
Worldwide Bond	179.70	189.20	+1.90	...
European	317.90	334.60	-7.20	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	985.80	1037.70	-51.30	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	759.90	820.20	...	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund 1	727.00	...	+0.90	...
-do- Acc 1	668.90	...	+0.80	...
Agricultural Fd 1	977.00	...	+1.00	...
-do- Acc 1	926.80	...	+1.00	...
Abbey Nat Fd 1	534.90	...	+0.70	...
Abbey Nat Acc 1	558.30	...	+0.70	...
Investment Fd 1	523.30	...	-25.80	...
Investment (A) 1	499.40	...	-24.70	...
Equity 1	2081.10	...	-105.50	...
Equity Acc 1	1974.80	...	-100.20	...
Money Fund 1	573.60	...	+0.50	...
-do- Acc 1	543.60	...	+0.50	...
Actuarial Fd 1	863.40	...	-42.00	...
Gilt-Edged Fd 1	534.40	...	+0.10	...
-do- Acc 1	534.40	...	+0.10	...
Retire Annuity 1	1544.20	...	+1.30	...
Immed Annuity 1	308.60	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life 1	267.60	...	+0.30	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc 1	2141.60	...	-145.40	...
Managed Acc 1	1207.10	...	-44.70	...
Equity Account 1	1897.70	...	-57.90	...
Mngd Fund Acc	544.90	573.60	-27.70	...
Equity Fund Acc	812.40	855.20	-36.90	...
Prop Fund Acc	348.80	367.20	+0.40	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	440.20	463.40	+4.60	...
Money Fund Acc	258.10	271.70	+0.30	...
Indx-Lnk Sc1 Ac	271.90	286.20	+3.10	...
Pers Pens Acc 1	2727.80	...	-191.40	...
Pens Mngd Acct	1267.90	1334.70	-93.50	...
Pens Guarantee	342.00	360.00	+0.60	...
Pens Equity	528.60	556.40	-44.60	...
Pens Property	413.20	434.90	+1.20	...
Pens Fixed Int	448.40	472.00	-4.60	...
Pens Intl	293.00	308.40	-32.90	...
Pens Money	290.60	305.90	+0.70	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	276.10	290.60	+2.50	...
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	1195.10	1257.90	-22.00	...
Property Acc	505.00	531.60	-1.00	...
Equity Acc	2182.40	2297.30	-52.30	...
Fixed Int Acc	558.60	588.00	-2.20	...
Cash Acc	365.30	384.60	-0.30	...
Amer Equity Acc	628.80	661.90	-35.60	...
Japan Acc	165.30	174.10	+7.90	...
Pacific Acc	215.40	226.80	-3.90	...
Far Eastern Acc	481.30	506.70	-7.60	...
International Acc	656.50	691.10	-17.30	...
Distribution Fund	351.90	370.50	-3.90	5.26
European	303.50	319.50	-3.70	...
Deffrd Dist	250.60	263.80	-2.10	...
For TSB Life see Lloyds TSB Life				
TESCO PERSONAL FINANCE LIFE LTD PO Box 23042, Edinburgh EH3 8YG 0845 845 5555				
UK Growth	84.90	84.90	-4.50	...
Balanced Growth	94.00	94.00	...	...
Intl Growth	85.10	85.10	-1.30	...
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	925.80	974.50	-25.90	...
Money Fund	373.30	392.90	+0.40	...
Equity Fund	890.80	937.60	-33.30	...
Fixed Interest	380.80	400.80	-1.80	...
Property Fund	466.40	491.40	+1.10	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnrl	754.70	794.40	-52.00	...
Income	1028.60	1082.70	-38.50	...
International Gth	735.30	774.00	-19.16	...
Capital Fund	773.20	813.80	-28.90	...
Recovery Fund	508.80	535.50	-20.70	...
Japan & General	161.80	170.30	+5.40	...
Formerly ALtna				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	21.26	22.37	+0.02	...
Bear	29.00	30.52	-0.36	...
Owl	29.34	30.88	-0.98	...
Bull	23.60	24.84	-0.66	...
Stag	21.33	22.45	-0.87	...
Gilt Edged	25.05	26.36	-0.12	...
Deposit	18.26	19.22	+0.02	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	30.39	31.98	+0.04	...
Bear	43.73	46.03	-0.63	...
Owl	42.92	45.17	-1.12	...
Bull	32.66	34.37	-0.91	...
Stag	29.33	30.87	-1.14	...
Gilt Edged	34.37	36.17	-0.19	...
Deposit	24.84	26.14	+0.03	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund 1		786.14	-21.66	
1982 Series				
UK Equity	494.66	520.69	-18.47	...
N Amer Equity	402.84	424.04	-27.81	...
Far East Equity	210.23	221.29	-1.85	...
Fixed	432.19	423.35	-1.82	...
Cash Deposit	240.95	253.63	+0.25	...
Property	198.94	209.41	+0.40	...
Special Opp	415.06	436.90	-16.86	...
Managed	411.46	433.33	-11.53	...
Index-Linked Fd	248.18	261.24	-0.67	...
Formerly Crown				
Life Mangd Acc	768.30	808.70	-21.60	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	502.50	528.90	-2.30	...
Life Equity Acc	1175.40	1237.20	-43.90	...
Life Money Acc	350.80	369.20	+0.40	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	1011.90	1065.10	-28.30	...
Life Intl Acc	520.20	547.50	-13.50	...
Life High Inc Acc	1231.30	1296.00	-36.20	...
Life Property Acc	312.30	328.90	+0.70	...

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THE TIMES SATURDAY



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THE TIMES SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5 1998



VINCENT YU

Though the markets in South-East Asia may recover, it will be too late for this Hong Kong woman who lost her savings

HSBC will ride out the Asian storms

A year ago, exposure to Asia commanded a premium in the shares of global businesses such as Shell, Intel, Gillette, Boeing and notably HSBC Holdings, the London-based banking empire in Hong Kong and South-East Asia (ex-Japan). In the UK, it owns Midland Bank.

Explosive Asian growth was fuelled by foolish loans, not least from foreign banks who fell over themselves to lend on ill-conceived infrastructure projects and the property sector.

The economies of Indonesia, Thailand and South Korea imploded and down went Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines amid huge devaluations of property, shares and currencies over the past year. Hong Kong has lurched into recession this year. China's GDP is put at 7 per cent but could well fall, not least because of the widespread flooding the country is experiencing.

HSBC's shares have virtually halved to about £12 in London and to HK$159 since last summer. Unlike British banks, it is a bellwether of Hong Kong's Hang Seng index and rises and falls in line with its fortunes.

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority's market intervention to foil speculators and bolster confidence in the US dollar peg worked for a while, albeit at the cost of diminishing Hong Kong's free market credentials. The result is that the HKMA now has a 9 per cent stake in HSBC, almost double that of the Pru.

The HKMA is likely to view its shares as a long-term investment, having put US$12 billion of its US$100 billion into propping up the equity market. Fears of a stock overhang in HSBC seem ill-founded. But the rational fear is that bad debts, against which a US$1.15 billion charge was taken at the half year will shrink group profits and stall growth. Hong Kong and the rest of Asia generated almost half last year's near £5 billion pre-tax profit.

Such fears look overdone: in the first half of this year, only 37 per cent of HSBC's group pre-tax profits of £2.2 billion were derived in the Far East. Non-Asian businesses — in North America, the UK and Latin America — contributed the remainder. Asia, outside of Hong Kong, contributed only 2 per cent against 11 per cent in the same period the previous year.

Yet HSBC still managed higher operating profits and a 14 per cent increase in the dividend. It is particularly well capitalised, especially by Western standards, yet still raised its regulatory capital ratios to 9.8 per cent. Provisions reduced pre-tax profit by 15 per cent.

Compared with Lloyds TSB, one of the most sought-after bank stocks, HSBC appears to have a rather lowly price/book ratio of 2 (Lloyds's is 5.5). Lloyds is a business focused on the UK market, which many analysts believe to be saturated.

Both Lloyds TSB and HSBC have scored above average total shareholder returns of at least 26 per cent a year over the past 15 years. But HSBC has by far the greater potential to surprise on the upside than to disappoint on the downside. Lloyds TSB is under pressure to deliver high expectations, although rumours of a merger between the two are wide of the mark.

HSBC, led by its chairman John Bond, has its sights on large deeply discounted distribution businesses in Asia, although the credit risk would have to be stripped out first. HSBC is actively seeking assets in Thailand, South Korea and maybe even Japan.

Mr Bond said: "We constantly stress-test our portfolio to reassess the risks and to ensure that we are conservatively covered. We'll take whatever pain we have to. It would be unrealistic to assume there will be no more provisions. But we could write off 100 per cent of our Indonesian loans and still we'd make a profit. There is prudent provision for bad debt now, and as an insurance policy we have also tucked away a further US$290 million of general provision. The risks in Asia are manageable and the opportunities considerable."

The case for owning shares in HSBC even now in the midst of the Asian crisis rests on the group's opportunities for future growth. Short term, uncertainties will prevail, and it is possible that the shares could slip lower.

There could be further provisions for bad debts in Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong as recession bites. But the worst pain, in Indonesia, Thailand and South Korea, has been taken.

Nevertheless, HSBC has considerable resilience and capital strength. It is well rounded with a portfolio which spans both emerging markets and the developed markets of the UK and US. For long-term investors HSBC is a buy for these reasons:

- More business will be derived from existing clients.
- New customers could be attained through acquisitions.
- A long track record in expense discipline/control.
- Experience in assessing and managing risks in emerging markets.
- Excellent record in managing shareholders' assets for high returns.
- Strong franchise in personal banking in 30 different cultures in Asia Pacific.
- Bad news is discounted. There is more upside than downside in the shares.

HSBC is banking on Asia, whose diverse peoples have the highest work ethic in the world, are big savers, are technically adept, ambitious and increasingly better educated. Their aspirations will drive HSBC's future growth.



SHARE OF THE MONTH

STELLA SHAMOON

BUY & HOLD STRATEGY

To sell shares in great businesses because the market has fallen is just as irrational as buying shares because the market has gone up. On Monday, investors dumped US blue chips, thus disturbing portfolio positions that will be worth a great deal more later. Some private investors will have sold their winners to raise cash to cover losses. We have all been shocked by sudden and sickening falls in shares around the world.

But pundits who say that this "crash" will be prolonged and could trigger world recession next year are only guessing what the markets might do. Do not follow crowd psychology. Stick to the plan that prompted you to buy shares in exceptional companies and you will be richly rewarded in the long term.

Inflation and interest rates in Western economies are at nearly half 1987 levels and consumer confidence remains high. This market downturn could be short-lived, and such panics create buying opportunities as both good and bad shares fall in price.

In such volatile conditions, commit a fixed sum to regular purchases of the same shares. You will thus automatically buy more of the chosen shares when prices are low, and fewer when prices are higher. This system takes the guesswork out of when to buy, and is a methodical and persistent way to build a portfolio. Nor do you need large amounts to get started. But stay in the market through thick and thin.

■ *Stella Shamoon is a private investor. Weekend Money takes no responsibility for the opinions expressed in her column. Always seek professional advice before making an investment.*

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Assessment time is here again



Yes, its time to look in the financial mirror again, and for a trouble-free tax return, just like trouble free cosmetics, always read the label first, in this case the notes from the Revenue

Karen Woolfson explains what to do to get your return back in time

The Inland Revenue has received a total of two and a half million tax returns under the new self-assessment regime this year, but there are still six and a half million forms due to be filed before the final deadline passes.

If you want the Revenue to calculate how much tax you owe, the return will have to be delivered by September 30.

An Inland Revenue spokeswoman said: "The most important thing is to open the tax return when you receive it through the post, because a lot of people wait until the last couple of days before the deadline. They find they don't have all the information they need and have to contact us." The Inland Revenue expects to be deluged by phone calls and a few million returns in the closing days before the deadline.

The spokeswoman added that the tax return is customised for each taxpayer. So if your situation has changed and you have not contacted the Revenue, you may not receive all the relevant pages enabling the form to be completed.

For example, there is a special page which relates to capital gains tax and another one which asks for details of share options.

Einstein said the hardest thing to understand is "the income tax" and many people have a similar mental block when it comes to personal finances.

The Revenue will give you until January 31, 1999, to file your return if it does not have to do the calculations. If you miss this deadline you will trigger a series of penalties.

If you have difficulty completing the form you can telephone the Inland Revenue helpline (0645 000 444).

It is best not to rely on the helpline though, because if it fails to clarify the problem then paying an accountant or tax adviser to complete the form will be the only option.

If you want to avoid the cost or aggravation, then making the September 30 deadline is a must.

John Whiting, tax partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers, says: "If you miss the September deadline and still expect the Revenue to do the calculations you could be in for a nasty shock. It will do the sums as you expect but there is no guarantee that they will be completed by January 31."

People who find themselves in this unpleasant situation will be charged 9.5 per cent interest from the first day of February next year if the amount of tax owed has not been paid.

If your return has still not been filed 28 days after the final deadline (by February 28, 1999), then you could face an extra 5 per cent surcharge on the outstanding amount.

If you fail to pay by the end of July 1999, then a further 5 per cent surcharge will apply. So the sum owed could quickly escalate to the sort of amount that fuels a certain type of rage with which both the taxman and traffic wardens are familiar.

People who fail to send back tax returns by January 31 next year will receive an immediate fixed penalty of £100, a further £100 six months later and the Revenue has the power to levy fines of up to £60 a day to ensure that taxpayers return the forms. Mr Whiting advises taxpayers to maintain their records regularly and thoroughly to avoid a big headache at the last minute.

You need to leave plenty of time to assemble all the information such as receipts for all your expenses.

He adds: "Don't panic. When confronted with a big form some people just give up or assume they understand it without taking a proper look. Things are often put in the wrong order or only half the details are provided."

Accountants also recommend that you start to collate income and expense details now in preparation for filling in next year's form.

Don't always blame the taxman

Just as million of tax-payers are struggling with the new tax self-assessment regime, the number of complaints about their treatment by the Inland Revenue and its staff is predicted to rise this year.

The Adjudicator's Office, which deals with complaints about the Inland Revenue, Customs & Excise and the Contributions Agency, revealed this week that delays in processing tax returns and failing to reply to correspondence within their published target of 28 days had prompted most of the 474 complaints it received about the Inland Revenue. More than 40 per cent of these complaints were upheld by the Adjudicator. The Revenue itself received nearly 2,500 complaints.

Elizabeth Filkin, the Adjudicator, said that the Inland Revenue admitted that the extra strain of self-assessment had contributed to the delays as they tried to cope with the tax affairs of more than 30 million people.

The Adjudicator has already received 170 complaints about self-assessment since April compared with just under 200 made in the last tax year.

Although it is too early to assess the extent to which self-assessment has affected delays, Mrs Filkin said: "I do expect from what the Inland Revenue tells me that we may well have more complaints about self-assessment this year."

The report also criticised the Revenue's mistakes, which included sending out empty envelopes instead of requested documents, poor response to complaints and staff behaviour. Mrs Filkin said: "Complaints about staff behaviour are often not taken seriously enough by the organisations or investigated with the same vigour shown in investigating complaints about procedural or technical matters."

The Adjudicator said the lack of vigour often made the problem worse and was costing the public purse too much in compensation. There is no ceiling for compensation. This year saw the record payment of £53,000 for a complaint made about Customs & Excise.

However, it is not always the fault of the organisation. Mrs Filkin voiced concern that some agents (usually accountants, sometimes lawyers, surveyors or consultants) do contribute to their client's problems.

Mrs Filkin said: "I continue to see cases where the agent has deliberately muddied the waters, spread venom or indeed caused the problem in the first place."

The report cited the example of a well-known firm of chartered accountants which wrote to a client suggesting that any compensation arising from the complaint to the Adjudicator's Office should be split between the accountant and the client.

Mrs Filkin said she had seen a "worrying lack of professionalism on the part of some accountants". The report mentions a number of cases where the accountant's delay or mistake had contributed to the problems. In the case of one complaint about delay, the Adjudicator found the delay resulted from the accountant's failure to supply information adequately. In another, the accountant made incorrect calculations which benefited the client and blamed the Revenue.

A spokesman for the Inland Revenue said: "We are glad that Mrs Filkin has acknowledged the problem. It takes some of the flak off us."

SUSAN EMMETT

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There are a number of books on sale which have been specially written to help people to cope with the new self-assessment regime.

One of them is the *Lloyds Bank Tax Guide 1998-1999* by Sara Williams and John Willman. It contains examples of how to complete the self-assessment tax return and includes sections on capital gains tax and investment income.

The first 50 readers to send their name and address details to the address below will receive a free copy of the book, which normally retails at £7.99.

The address is *The Times* Reader Offer, 58a Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8LX.

Anyone who does not qualify for a free copy will be offered the chance to buy the book for £3.99 including postage and packing.

The guide contains a section on ways save tax, which covers subjects such as claiming allowances, keeping records, claiming expenses and making the most of tax-free investments.

It covers how tax affects homeowners, married couples, employees and the self-employed and retired people.

It spells out for employees what fringe benefits in their job are tax-free, for example subsidised meals at the works canteen, parking spaces at work, an occasional taxi home if you are forced to work late, and living accommodation if it is necessary for you to live near to your work in order to do your job.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY

Schro

Gavin Lumsden explains how another leading fund manager got it badly wrong

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Like many in the City ... 1997 Schroders assumed ... Labour was on course ... majority in the May ... Based on ... hour in office, ... assured that this ... the pound. The ... would boost the ... porters and ... already about to ... turn in world ...

Buoyed by these ... ers invested heavily ... ium-sized enterprises ... would grow ...

Unfortunately ... army of investors ... ately the reverse ... plunging, sterling ... after Labour's ... rates leapt and the ... the Far East began ... British manufacturers ... Meanwhile, the ... missed out on ... blue chip stocks ... pharmaceuticals ...

The impact ... on Schroders has ... being the equivalent ... League football ... Schroders is now ... place in the Football ... all of its funds ... over one, two and ...

Three years ago ... the fifth largest ... now slumped to ... of new investors ...

Behind Schroders' ... is a desperate desire ... next M&G. The ... ous honour of being ... ter is refused to ... mem philosophy ... passed its sell-by ...

Ironically, Schroders ... with just the sort of ... tated manufacturing ... M&G was lambasted ... also suffering in its ... fund management ... the top four pension ... ders has grown ... ning business ... after the money ... plans. While the pension ... the top four has ... has done so ... Schroders. The ... ager has lost ... tracts as trustee ...

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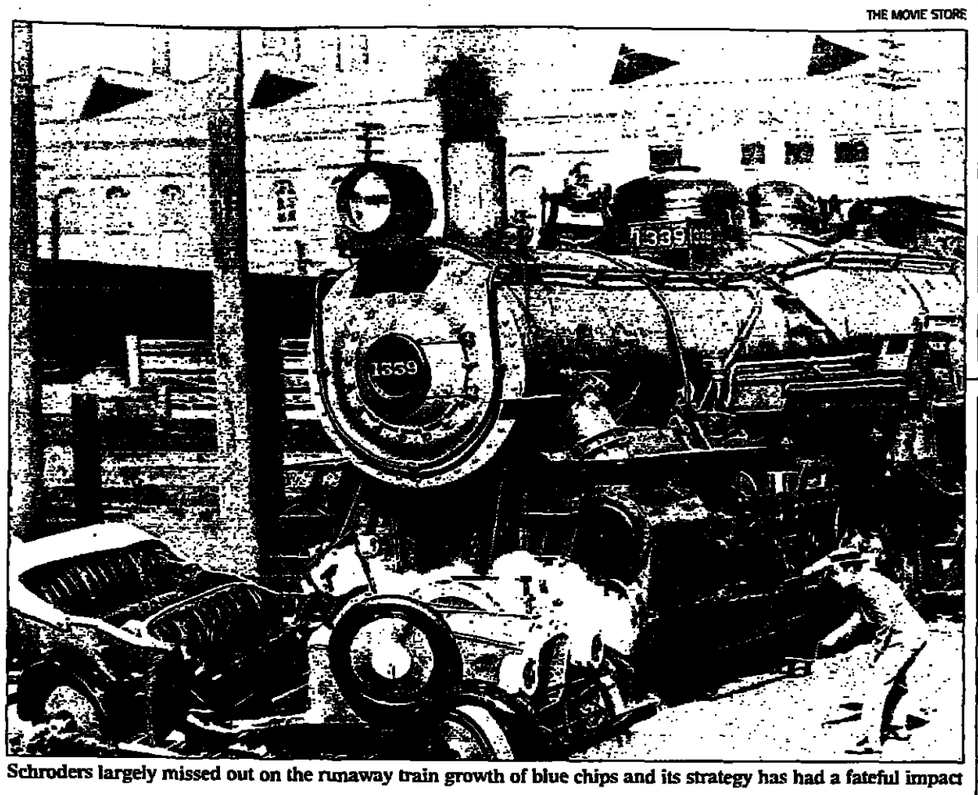
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Schroders crunch time

Gavin Lumsden explains how another leading fund manager got it badly wrong

THE MOVIE STORE



Schroders largely missed out on the runaway train growth of blue chips and its strategy has had a fateful impact

Schroders, one of the most respected fund managers in the City, has been forced to review its entire investment process after its bet that the pound would fall and trigger a manufacturing boom went spectacularly wrong.

Like many in the City, at the start of 1997 Schroders correctly forecast that Labour was on course for a massive majority in the May general election.

Based on distant memories of Labour in office, however, Schroders assumed that this would mean a fall in the pound. The theory went that this would boost the fortunes of British exporters and manufacturers who were already about to benefit from an upturn in world economic growth.

Buoyed by these twin tenets Schroders invested heavily in small and medium-sized enterprises which it thought would grow particularly fast.

Unfortunately for Schroders and the army of investors who rely upon it, exactly the reverse happened. Far from plunging, sterling rose to record highs after Labour's victory, while interest rates leapt and the economic crisis in the Far East began to unfold, pushing British manufacturers into recession. Meanwhile, the company has largely missed out on the runaway growth of blue chip stocks such as banks and pharmaceuticals.

The impact of this fateful decision on Schroders has been drastic. From being the equivalent of a Premier League football club a few years ago Schroders is now struggling to keep its place in the Football Conference, with all of its funds trailing the competition over one, two and three years.

Three years ago the company was the fifth largest raiser of funds. It has now slumped to eleventh as the supply of new investors has begun to dry up.

Behind Schroders's soul searching is a desperate desire not to become the next M&G. The latter earned the dubious honour of being "dog" manager after it refused to ditch its "value" investment philosophy long after the style passed its sell-by date.

Ironically, Schroders has ended up with just the sort of small, export-orientated manufacturing stocks for which M&G was lambasted. Schroders is also suffering in the crucial pension fund management business. As one of the top four pension managers, Schroders has grown accustomed to winning business from trustees who look after the money in workers' pension plans. While the performance of all of the top four has sagged recently, none has done so comprehensively badly as Schroders. The beleaguered fund manager has lost several important contracts as trustees have acted to protect the interests of their scheme members by switching to other managers. Senior management has now launched an unprecedented review of Schroders's investment process in a bid to stop the exodus spreading to private investors.

By its own account Schroders could have its work cut out ensuring that existing investors stay. It says its unit trusts are designed to take greater risks than the pension funds it runs and are consequently more "overweight" in the suffering manufacturing sector. This exposure has dragged it down. Bridget Cleverly, marketing manager, said: "We are all aware that we live and die by our investment performance."

Worst affected have been Schroders's flagship United Kingdom funds — the UK Enterprise, UK Equity and Income unit trusts — which have been highly prized by private investors in the past and attracted billions of pounds in the process. In the past two years, however, all three have lagged behind their benchmark, the FTSE all-share index.

By focusing attention on how the company selects the industry sectors and stocks it invests in, Schroders is hoping to get its stars, such as Jim Cox of the £1.2 billion Enterprise trust, back up the league tables again.

Nor are the problems confined to the UK markets. In the sectors of Europe, emerging markets and global bonds Schroders's name has had a series of disappointing years.

One of its few claims to investment fame has been in crisis-riven Japan, where Schroders has managed to lose less money than other fund managers. It also retains some credibility in UK and US smaller companies, both of which are out of favour sectors but where Schroders has squeezed some satisfactory returns compared with other fund managers.

Such small victories are unlikely to restore Schroders's crumbling reputation. Certainly it does not appear to believe so itself. The company's unit trust division has engaged in the kind of management reshuffle of which Newcastle United would have been proud. The managing director, Clive Boothman, a former chairman of the prestigious Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds, has been moved to head up Schroders's private client operation, while his deputy, Rod Duncan, has taken early retirement. More departures are not ruled out.

However, Nicola Ralston, managing director of Schroders Investment Management, insists her company is not repeating M&G's mistakes. "We are coming at this from a different angle. Schroders has always adopted a flexible investment style, choosing value or growth approaches when it appeared right to do so."

Nevertheless, she admits Schroders is in an ugly bind, caught in the vice of a two-tier market that continues to push highly rated blue chip shares ever higher while depressing manufacturing stock to new lows. Having got things so wrong last year, can the company now afford to make the momentous decision that will put them right?

Ms Ralston said: "The deterioration in prospects means that manufacturers are still risky and we should get out. However, after an extended period of underperformance, they are very cheap and represent extraordinarily good value. Having stuck with them this far, it is perhaps not the time to cut our position."

Jason Hollands of BESt Investment, which compiled the "top dog" list which so shamed M&G, says investors should not automatically switch from Schroders. "Every active manager goes through a period of underperformance. So long as you can understand the reasons why, it is not always necessary to dump them."

However, even generous-minded investors may be tempted to switch to index-tracking trusts which eschew the pitfalls of actively picking stocks by investing in every share available. They are also cheaper.

Investors who do leave Schroders could find a more flexible service elsewhere, said Mr Hollands: "Schroders has never been at one with the retail unit trust market. They have lacked the flexibility of other Pep managers who let you choose the funds you want.

"With Schroders you can't pick and mix. You have to take the package they offer. Last year their High Growth Pep combined their Pacific Growth, European Smaller Companies and Smaller Company funds, three of the worst sectors you could have been in."

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AMERICAN RETHINK 48

Graham Searjeant on the golden age that turned to lead

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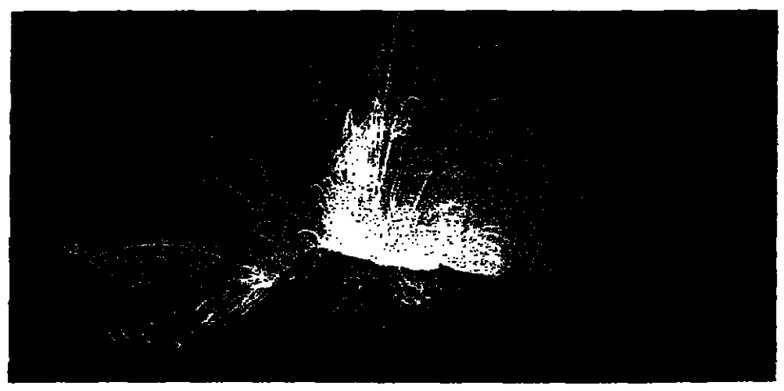
ASSESSMENT TIME 54

Just three weeks left to get your tax return back on time



Investors run for cover

Panic share selling has erupted across global markets. Caroline Merrell examines the investment options



The revelation by Barclays Bank this week that it had lost about £250 million it lent to Russia reveals that even the most professional investors can get it spectacularly wrong.

With falls in stock markets around the world precipitated by continuing uncertainty in the Far East and the devaluation crisis in Russia, many investment gurus are predicting that the world is now on the cusp of a bear market.

For example, the FTSE 100 index had fallen by a 100 points a day for five consecutive days before recovering some ground yesterday. With such extreme volatility in the markets, many private investors are now wondering what adjustments they should make to their portfolios in preparation for what may turn out to be a prolonged bear market.

Stockbrokers are notoriously reluctant to urge clients to sell equities, believing that over the long term shares outperform fixed-interest stocks. They acknowledge that even experienced fund managers often fail to spot the top or the bottom of market cycles.

Killik & Co, a leading firm of stockbrokers in the UK, has, however, been bearish on the stock market for the past few months, and said it had been advising clients to move into fixed-interest stock. For some clients it had recommended that as much as 20 per cent of portfolios should be invested in fixed-interest securities. Matthew Orr, director of Killik, recommended undated gilts, with the bet that interest rates in the UK will eventually start to fall.

Mr Orr is also keen to promote hedge funds within a portfolio but only about 10 per cent of any portfolio should be invested in them.

Killik & Co and others believe that private investors should consider putting their money into European stock markets, where the drive towards a single currency is forcing governments to impose a strict economic discipline.

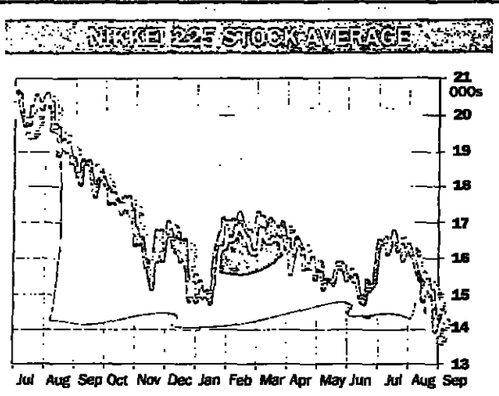
Not all stockbrokers are so gloomy. Jeremy Batstone, managing director at NatWest stockbrokers, said he still believed the FTSE 100 would end up at about 6,000. Yesterday it was hovering about 5,100. He said: "We think that it is an opportunity to buy shares at certain prices. Shares have been falling indiscriminately and clearly value exists."

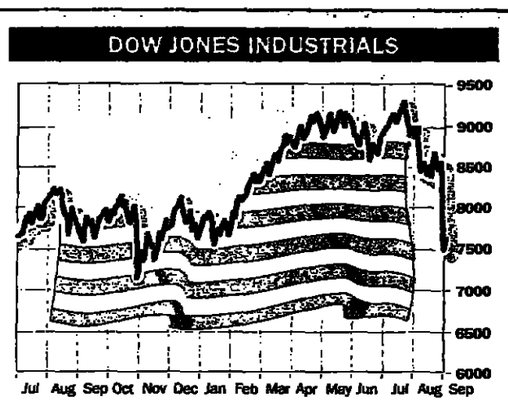
He advised switching investments out of mortgage banks such as Alliance & Leicester and Halifax, which will be hit by the expected downturn in the housing market, and into the retail banks. Mr Batstone believes Glaxo Wellcome and BT also represent good value.

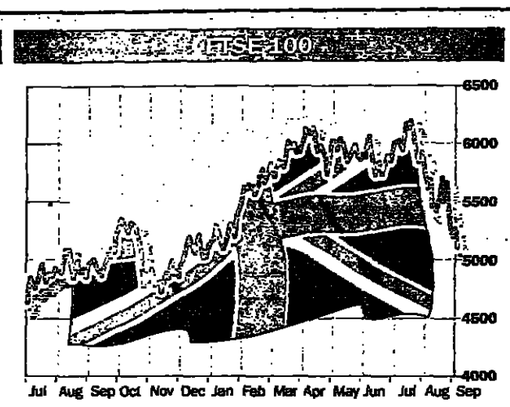
With economic activity slowing, and inflationary pressure building gilts could prove a good bet, he said. Gilts would rally as investors sought a safe home for their investments.

Gavin Oldham, of the Share Centre, believes that investors should do nothing to adjust their investments. However, he believes that now is not the right time to commit any more money to the markets.

Marc Gordon, managing director of Close Fund Management, believes there could be a correction followed by a five-year period of flat stock markets, characterised by small spikes. His company offers protected unit trusts that lock in the gains made on the market on a three-monthly basis, while losses are minimised.







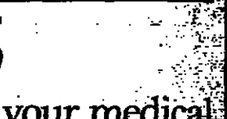
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WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

Halifax unveils new weapon in battle for savers

Halifax, the newly converted bank, has stepped up the battle for Britain's savers by launching a new instant access card account with a rate of 6.75 per cent on balances of £500 or more.

On balances between £50 and £499 the account will pay a rather less exciting 1 per cent gross. Savers aged under 21 will receive a minimum interest rate of 5.75 per cent.

The new account, to be called the Halifax Instant Saver, will be launched on Monday and will pay the same rate as the Card Saver account offered by Woolwich, another former building society.

It is, however, lower than the Nationwide's InvestDirect postal account, which pays 7.4 per cent on balances of £500 or more, and lower than Standard Life's DirectAccess account which pays 7.35 per cent on £500-plus.

Halifax argues that these two accounts are not truly "instant access", whereas cash from the new Halifax Instant Saver can be withdrawn immediately from cash dispensers. This service is free from LINK machines and ATMs owned by Midland Bank, but other banks may make a charge of around £1 per withdrawal.

Vicky Burn of Moneyfacts, the money information service, said that Halifax's Instant Saver is very similar to the one offered by the Woolwich. She said: "The advantage of the card-based accounts means that you can get at your money with no notice. However, they are not the top savings rates in the market."

Halifax's new rate is a significant improvement on that available to the four million savers who have a Halifax Liquid Gold account. A Halifax spokesman said he expects customers to "jump at the chance" of investing in the new account.

One of the rules of the Halifax Instant Saver is that investors must make withdrawals of £300 from cash machines and not "over the counter".

Liquid Gold is currently paying 0.5 per cent on £50 or more, and 4.25 per cent on balances of £500 or more.

There has been much argument within the savings industry and consumer groups about what does or does not constitute an instant access account. Earlier this year Direct Line came in for criticism when the Advertising Standards Authority ruled that it could not use the words "with instant access" to describe its savings account, even though savers were able to phone to request withdrawals that were transferred directly to bank or building society accounts. By banning over-the-counter withdrawals of small amounts Halifax can reduce costs on the account and pay a higher rate of interest.

☐ Virgin Direct, the financial services company run by Richard Branson, has written to all 220,000 of its index-tracking personal equity plan customers this week to reassure them during the market turmoil.

Anyone who bought into a FTSE 100 index-tracker at the height of the Pep season at the beginning of April this year would have seen the value of their fund fall by roughly 20 per cent to date.

However, Rowan Gormley, chief executive, said that "time, not timing" was the key to successful stock market investment and in the 1987 market crash most of the serious losses were made by people who took a short-term view and sold during the crash itself.

Virgin Direct is advising customers to hold for the long term and take advantage of regular savings plans to spread the risk.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Actuary alleges mis-selling

Bacon & Woodrow, one of the country's leading firms of actuaries, is poised to publish a report alleging that more than a third of free-standing AVCs, a form of pension top-up, are mis-sold.

However, the Association of British Insurers (ABI), the trade body for insurance companies, claims that Bacon & Woodrow's findings are not strictly accurate, as the allegations relate to the commission usually charged on FSAVC contracts.

At the moment, all occupational schemes have to offer scheme members a top-up plan to allow them to maximise their pension benefits, as the vast majority of those in company schemes have not made enough contributions to qualify for the two thirds of final salary maximum pension allowed by the Revenue.

In the past, these top-up plans have been criticised for offering poor returns. Many are invested in cash, or near cash, which provide poorer returns than direct equity investment. In addition to the additional voluntary contribution plans offered by company schemes, many insurance companies also sell FSAVCs. These are for the self-employed and others who want to top up their pension arrangements.

Bacon & Woodrow claims that in almost all circumstances, it is better for the pension scheme member to take the contribution plan offered by the company, as the schemes do not have to pay advisers' commission. FSAVCs do pay commission, which can deplete returns by up to a quarter.

The actuary believes that the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the regulator, should tighten up the rules on AVCs to prevent people from buying the wrong contract. The ABI claims that Bacon & Woodrow is not using the phrase mis-selling in its strictest sense. It claims that the report is not a real reflection of the market.



Patrick Malcolm believes he was mis-sold an FSAVC by his financial adviser

One person who believes he is a victim of mis-selling is Patrick Malcolm from London.

Mr Malcolm, who works in a computing company, took out a personal pension 12 years ago. He then became eligible for the company scheme, which he joined.

Mr Malcolm said: "My financial adviser then told me to take out an FSAVC, with Scottish Equitable to ensure that I would have an adequate pension. I make monthly contributions of £200 into the scheme." He was unaware that his company also offered an AVC scheme, which did not pay out any commission to the adviser.

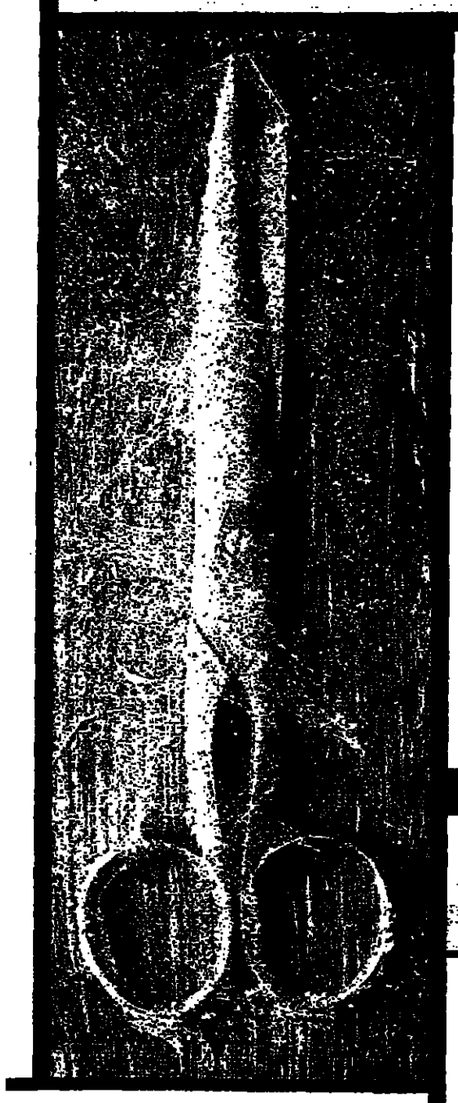
He feels that he has been mis-sold the plan, and has subsequently changed his financial adviser. He has also written to the Financial Services Authority. He says: "I have not been able to get any information about whether I have been mis-sold the AVC."

Mr Malcolm is aggrieved that his original adviser did not alert him to the fact that he could invest in an AVC plan from his company.

CAROLINE MERRELL

The tax regime of PEPs and ISAs may change, and the value of the tax benefits will depend on the individual circumstances of the investor. The price of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up, you may not get back as much as you invest. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future performance. *Offer to bid net of basic rate tax. 5 years to 28.8.98, net income paid in 1998 £48, capital value £1,298. †Net income reinvested. 5 years to 28.8.98 M&G Dividend Fund £1,562. Source: M&G statistics. Building society source: Office for National Statistics – average retail shares and deposits. M&G do not offer investment advice or make any recommendation regarding investments – we only promote the packaged products and services of the M&G marketing group. Issued by M&G Financial Services Limited (Regulated by The Personal Investment Authority). Registered Office: M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. M&G Unit Trusts are managed by M&G Securities Limited (Regulated by IMRO and The Personal Investment Authority).

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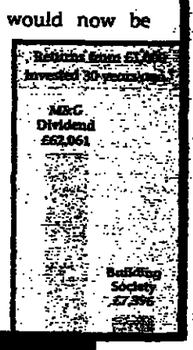
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As a result, if you had invested £1,000 in August 1968, the income paid out to you this year would be £562, and your capital would now be worth £16,442.*

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Swissair jet's 'black box' found

Blai Do

Investigators have located the flight data and voice recorders of Swiss Air Flight 111, which went down off the coast of Nova Scotia last week.

The box containing the recorders emitted a pinging sound that was picked up by the navy submarine USS Grayback in 1900ft of water about five miles off the village of Peggy's Cove.

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